

Town of Red Hook
Tree Preservation Commission
Minutes

March 26, 2008

Attendance: Nancy Guski, Rosemarie Zengen, Linda Keeling, Karen Cadorette (2:20)

Absent: Trilby Seiverding

Guests: Brenda Cagle (CAC chairperson)

Call to Order: Acting Chairperson Nancy Guski, acknowledging a quorum, called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm.

Purpose: This is the second meeting of the Tree Preservation Commission.

- Materials necessary to function as a group were passed on and explained by Brenda Cagle.
- Plans for the combination Earth and Arbor Day celebration were continued.

Minutes: Linda motioned to accept the corrected minutes, Nancy seconded and all agreed to accept the minutes of 3-19-08 as corrected.

Old Business: Brenda Cagle distributed the town tree law and turned over her notes to the Commission. She briefly explained the purpose and responsibilities of the group. She offered her help and assistance if needed.

Brenda explained that the no cost DOT Program for the Town and Village. The DOT will provide a landscape architect and during a walk locate 50-55 tree planting locations along State roads in commercial areas within the right of way. Permission slips are required from the abutting landowners. The town got back 22 permits and the village got back 33 permits. The DOT will provide mulch, 2-3 inch caliber trees and maintain them for one year. Karen estimated that each tree has a commercial value of about \$900 at a total value of nearly \$50,000. The engineer still has to set up a date to mark the tree locations.

Nancy gave the acting secretary the following 3-19-08 inventories to be attached to the filed minutes for the NYSDOT Annual Landscape Development Contract. The Village of Red Hook Tree Plantings has 21 sites and 33 plantings along Rt. 9 South, Rt. 9 North, Rt. 199 East and Rt. 199 West. The Town of Red Hook Tree Plantings has 9 sites and 22 plantings along Rt. 9 South, Rt. 9 North, Rt. 199 East and Rt. 9 G.

Rose mentioned that Ruge has not been contacted about planting trees at the NAPA location on South Broadway. She feels he would be willing to enhance this property and she would be willing to approach him about this proposal.

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Linda mentioned that she commented on the JNY signage proposal on South Broadway during a ZBA public hearing. She indicated that the signage is now less in size than originally proposed but still larger than the general bulk regulations. The ZBA and renter seemed to be open to installing perennial plantings and trees which could be part of the variance granting process.

Brenda mentioned that a tree proclamation was read in 2006 and 2007 and suggested that the 2008 proclamation be read during the dedication ceremony on April 26th.

Brenda mentioned that in 2006 they gave away tree seedlings: 3 service berries were planted at the Trail Head to Appling Drive. In the Fall 9 trees were planted at the Bagel Shop, Recreation Park and Rockefeller Lane.

In 2007, Denise Barton ordered the tree seedlings which cost about \$200. One of the Arbor Day celebration events consisted of Nancy working with a local Red Hook kindergarten class at Memorial Park on the topic of Maple trees. Stewarts donated ice cream for the maple syrup treat.

Brenda continued that in the spring of 2007, they planted 80 seedlings at the trail. In the fall of 2007 there were 10 trees and 6 shrubs planted at Forest Park and the trail. She noted that John Kuhn of the Rec. Park Dept. had received a NYS Legislative grant for about \$1500. She thought it was courtesy of Senator Saland.

On 12/10/07, Brenda met with John Kuhn regarding the planting of a 6 ft. tall evergreen screen, a huge tree by the shed and 2 winter berry hollies.

Brenda passed out copies of the town's tree ordinance crafted by attorney to the town, Christine Chale. Nancy remembered Linda making comments during the public hearing. Brenda emphasized the wording "shall" meaning it must be done. Brenda turned over to Nancy the Village of Red Hook example of a Forest Management Plan and one on a disk from another township. Brenda gave a summary of the main items contained in the law: Management Plan, list desirable trees, permit necessary before a tree can be cut down, inputting on subdivision / site plan review, timber harvesting and generally making recommendations to the Town Board.

New Business: Brenda mentioned that the Northern Dutchess Alliance is having a speaker on April 16th on Tree Harvesting.

Nancy emphasized that we would like to develop and nurture a symbiotic relationship with the Superintendent of Highways Wayne Hildenbrandt.

Rose stated that Wayne's relation is Tony Difierro (sp?) who is chairman of the DOT.

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Linda inquired as to the status of the utilities and tree trimming. Brenda mentioned that each utility has its own management plan.

Brenda noted that the County DPW has been made aware of a dead tree in Barrytown on Annandale Rd. This could be a future planting location.

Nancy mentioned May might be a good time to start an inventory. Linda suggested focusing on the Scenic Road corridors. Nancy felt it would be good to start with the Rec. Park.

A discussion focused on the benefits of using salt tolerant street trees and “magic salt” (calcium chloride). Brenda said Wayne Hildenbrandt uses the magic salt already.

Nancy thought it would be beneficial to alternate the chairmanship among the members. Everyone agreed to this suggestion. Linda motioned for Nancy to be the chairman and Karen seconded and all agreed.

Nancy reviewed some of the activities planned for April 26th. She indicated that she has gotten the poster printed through the Mid Hudson Library Sprint program.

Previously, Nancy had put a \$192 order into the Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District for 180 seedlings which include: American Plum, Buttonbush, Redosier Dogwood, Sassafras, and white Flowering Dogwood.

Linda noted that historically the locals were concerned about planting and caring for trees. She read from the March 27, 1868 Red Hook Journal, compiled by Maynard Ham: *Shade Tree: As the season for laying out shade trees will soon be along, owners of property should bear in mind that nothing so much improves a piece of property, or adds to its value, as a few good shade trees, properly laid out. The cost of planting young trees is but trifling, and they are continually growing and adding to the value of your real estate.*

Brenda mentioned that the PTA is having a science fair April 11th. The topics will be sent to Brenda. The Earth Day Committee will be able to select projects for display on April 26th.

The group discussed Rose’s suggestion to do an indoor reception with a “Taste of Red Hook”. It was felt that the main room is needed for the luncheon. Everyone liked the idea and would like to try it for next year. Rose will orchestrate the free silent auction drawings.

Linda suggested to Nancy to have everyone write down their name, address, phone number and email so we can all keep in contact easily. She passed a paper around.

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Brenda noted that Friday she is attending a Tree City workshop in Albany. Other workshops are: April 2: "Planning for Trees in Urban and Community Landscapes", 7-9 p.m., Ferndale (Liberty), NY; July 24-26, State Forestry Conference, Ithaca, NY, boarding is available at the dorm rooms.

Next Meeting: *Wed. April 2, 2008* at 3:00 p.m. at the town hall.

Concluded: Rose motioned to end the meeting, Linda seconded and all agreed. The meeting ended at 3:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling
TPC Acting Secretary
April 17, 2008