

Town of Red Hook

Tree Preservation Commission

Minutes

April 2, 2008

Attendance: Nancy Guski (Chairman), Karen Cadorette and Linda Keeling (Secretary)

Absent: Trilby Seiverding, Rosemarie Zengen

Guests: none

Call to Order: Chairperson Nancy Guski called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm. Only two voting members were present, therefore, there was no quorum.

Purpose: To continue the discussion of plans for the April 26th community event.

Discussions: Nancy acknowledged that Linda Keeling was appointed secretary to the Tree Commission at the Town Board meeting. In order to accommodate, a newly interested member, Eleanor Friery, into the group, Linda submitted a resignation as a member but will still continue with all the activities involving the Tree Commission. Nancy felt this was a win-win situation for everyone involved and will best serve the needs of the Commission because of Linda's background with the Village Tree Commission and other community groups.

Nancy distributed an article received by Harry Colgan from the *New York Times*, March 23, 2008 entitled: "To Protect Trees, Cortland Enacts Tighter Law with Hefty Fines" to be read and discussed at a later time.

Nancy showed the group the posters and leaflets printed for the event. Everyone was impressed with the quality of the art work which was done by the author Barbara Bash.

Karen was assigned the task of picking up the 12 bare root winter berries at Phantom Gardener.

Rosemarie was assigned the task of meeting with Maria Larsen from the Middle School to pick-up the children's artwork on April 11th. Nancy briefly mentioned the businesses lending their store front windows: J&J, Nekos Drug Store, Merritt Book Store, Libby McGee Restaurant, Natural Food Store and others. She indicated that they will be matted and are beautifully executed.

Rosemarie will also take responsibility for the free drawings table.

Continued
Tree Preservation Commission Minutes
April 2, 2008

Linda will dress-up as a tree and give out the seedlings and tree guides.

The dedication at the “Wetlands Trail” is at 9:00 and is being organized by Howie’s Trail Committee.

Linda wanted some clarification on the NYSDOT tree planting. She wanted to know if our volunteers are required to put the trees in the pre-dug holes. Karen explained that the DOT will plant all 55. Nancy mentioned that we can watch DOT plant if we want to. She again stressed that this is a terrific “no cost” to the town program which includes mulch and watering the trees throughout the year.

Nancy showed the group a diagram of the intended plantings for the Recreation Park that she and John Kuhn discussed. One of the locations had a tree previously at one time but it was mysteriously cut down. The group would like to ensure that no tree is cut down by users of the park. Nancy referenced the Tree Ordinance and thought it mentioned a fine of \$500 per tree and was enforced by the Zoning Officer. Linda thought the law did not mention the schedule for infractions. She thought this had to be voted on by the Town Board. She will reinvestigate and read the law again.

Nancy wanted to make sure everyone was familiar with the schedule for the day in case she was not available due to any unanticipated circumstance. Nancy had to cut the meeting short as she was meeting Brenda Cagle to go to the Liberty workshop: “Planning for Trees in Urban and Community Landscapes” sponsored by Releaf and Cornell Cooperation.

Nancy noted she is not addressing our other charges at this time until the Arbor Day event is completed. Then the Commission can develop a tree survey. Karen suggested that we use the Village of Red Hook tree survey as a model as they had put a great deal of time and thought into its development. She noted that our responsibilities cover a larger footprint but if we focus on certain areas at a time, we can accomplish much.

Karen motioned to end the meeting and Nancy seconded. All agreed.

Next Meeting: Wed. April 16th, 3:00 pm, town hall.

Concluded: The meeting ended at 3:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling
TPC Secretary
April 17, 2008