

Town of Red Hook
Tree Preservation Commission

Minutes

April 16, 2008

Attendance: Nancy Guski, Eleanor Friery, Rosemarie Zengen and Karen Cadorette (3:30)

Absent: Trilby Seiverding

Guests: none

Call to Order: Chairperson Nancy Guski called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

Purpose: To continue the discussion of plans for the April 26th community event and distribute materials to participants.

Minutes: Rosemarie moved to accept the amended minutes from 3-26-08 and Nancy seconded. All agreed. Rosemarie moved to accept the minutes of 4-2-08, Nancy seconded. All agreed.

Discussions: Nancy introduced our newest member, Eleanor Friery, to the group.

Nancy Guski showed the group the donated items to be given away at the event: gift certificates, 2 bluebird birdhouses (made by Ed Guski and Dale Bard), cow bells, and cow lithograph. Rosemarie collected the materials and offered to add something from her shop. She'll organize the drawing which will be at 3 pm.

The group was very impressed with the quality of the Linden Ave. Middle School artwork submitted for display for the local businesses' windows. The following businesses have been contacted by Nancy already: Merritt Bookstore (6-8 pieces), Ferrusi Jewelers (2 pieces), Libby McGee (8 or more pieces). Rosemarie will distribute the remaining artwork to the following: Nekos Pharmacy (8 pieces), J & J Deli (6-8 pieces), Conscious Living (1-2 pieces) and the Health Food Store (1-2 pieces).

Nancy distributed folders to each member which contained:

- Small posters of the April 26 event
- Booklet by Central Hudson entitled: "Trees and Your Electric Service"
- Yellow sheet listing the 15 tree species to be planted at the Recreation Park with the price range of \$72, \$85 or \$92 for each. The total was \$1,242.
- White sheet entitled: "Care of Newly Planted Trees and Shrubs" by the NYSDOT, Poughkeepsie, NY (845) 431-5853

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Nancy mentioned that Michele Decker of Decker Construction in Columbia County will be professionally assisting us with the installation of the tree plantings.

Linda Keeling presented the recent news article in the *Daily Freeman* on the Arbor Day activities in Red Hook. She questioned its reference to a tour of the Red Hook Firehouse and its green elements. We all thought this had to be an error as we didn't feel this building was initially built with those considerations at the time. We were unaware of any recent environmentally responsive renovations.

Linda contacted PANDA and received notice from their president that they can not film but will lend their equipment. Linda felt we should contact various filmers so we have adequate coverage throughout the day. She stressed that digital records then can be posted to the website and help out on grant applications.

Linda noted that she received a yellow postcard as well as an email from Brenda Cagle regarding the Urban and Community Forestry grant. Linda noted that she worked on this grant with Brenda for the Village Green Tree group and was successful in being fully funded for \$7500. This two year grant amount has increased to \$20,000 with a 50% match. Nancy agreed that we should apply for this which is due June 4th as it will cover inventory expenses, developing a Management Plan, purchasing and installing trees. Linda suggested a sub-committee be formed as soon as possible. Linda noted that she has volunteered her services on a variety of grants for the town and village over the past years but can no longer do that any more. She indicated that her fees are reasonable if the group wishes to use her services.

Nancy was excited about the potential for future workshops to teach the general public about tree care. Linda noted that the Village Green had a tree trimming workshop in the past with the DEC forester Lou Sebesta which was very successful.

Nancy noted that the Village of Tivoli is having their Arbor Day Celebration activities on April 19th. They will have a table for creating Recycled Crafts and hikes at Tivoli Bays.

Linda noted that the chairman needs to request a 2008 budget for our secretarial services, workshops and tree purchase expenses. She noted that we need to keep an accounting of the landscaping installation costs as a means of justifying the required allotment specified as a Tree City designee for the future 2009 budget.

Eleanor described the Mill Road Nature Trail. She had professional assistance in creating the trail, laying down wood chips, labeling trees and creating a Trail Guide booklet. She indicated that the first few years there was no damage to the trail, but as the years went on the trail incurred much damage. A first grade teacher, Steve Hart, would like to rework the trail. Linda and Karen suggested he put down landscape fabric instead of plastic so the water can penetrate through to the roots.

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Nancy briefly relayed her experience at the Liberty workshop. She displayed the three soft covered books and CD which Eleanor took to review its contents.

Nancy was wondering how involved we should get with the school and their trees. All agreed that our charge goes beyond just focusing on the schools. We need to be concerned more with public spaces which the Recreation Park fulfills as a good starter.

Nancy was very pleased to announce that with the help of Rosemarie's talking with Lou Ruge, who loves trees, the new NAPA business will have 4 tree lilacs installed. Ruge is also installing a tree at his business. Linda noted she made public comment at the ZBA public hearing and NAPA will be required to put in flowers under his sign. Everyone was delighted with the progress to come to this business area. Nancy mentioned it is a known fact that when a business adds landscape plantings, it's a friendly customer attractant and everyone wins.

Nancy suggested we might want to look at a few websites she came across: www.na.fs.fed.us/watershed and www.sustainablesites.org She noted that more tree shade on roads requires less road maintenance over time which saves the highway department money.

Eleanor volunteered to pick-up the 4 painted garbage barrels from the Linden Ave. Middle School art teacher Marie Larsen on April 25th, 2 pm. They can be delivered to the Town Hall. Wayne Hildenbrandt gave his permission for the drop off.

Everyone felt very good about the up-coming day's activities and is looking forward to interacting with the public. Nancy noted that Robert McKeon has volunteered to bring his pony and give rides to the children.

Next Meeting: Wed., May 7th, 6:30 pm, town hall.

Concluded: Rosemarie motioned to end the meeting and Karen seconded it. All agreed. The meeting ended at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling
TPC Secretary
April 17, 2008

Approved: June 4, 2008

Note: The May 7th meeting was cancelled due to a death.