

Town of Red Hook
Tree Preservation Commission

Minutes

June 4, 2008

Attendance: Nancy Guski, Rosemarie Zengen and Eleanor Friery

Absent: Trilby Seiverding and Karen Cadorette

Guests: none

Call to Order: Chairperson Nancy Guski called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Purpose: This is a regular monthly meeting of the Commission.
(Note: the May 7th meeting was canceled due to a death of a family member.)

Minutes: Eleanor motioned to accept the minutes of the 4-16-08 meeting and Rosemarie seconded, all agreed.

Discussions: Everyone agreed that the Arbor Day / Earth Day Celebration held on April 26th was a great success overall. Nancy showed some of the photos from the day's events. Rose expressed her appreciation for Supervisor Sue Crane's speech as "poetic" and thanked Nancy for all her hard work on putting the day's activities together. Nancy noted that she had sent a general thank you letter to the Poughkeepsie Journal and they could not print all three signature names so she left hers off. She also sent other thank you letters to the teachers and children that participated in the festivities.

Nancy informed the group that she did not apply to the DEC Urban & Community Forestry grant because of the short preparation time frame (due June 4) and the newness of the group. Linda, who writes grants professionally, noted that this matching grant is offered annually and after further work from the group, the Commission will be in a better position to apply.

Nancy stated that she is pulling together a tentative budget to be submitted to the Town Board in the fall of 2008 concerning our needs for Fiscal Year 2009 (Tree City required \$2 per population count, workshops and conferences, maintenance, etc.) She will consult with the town's business managers, Debbie Marks and Rose Rider.

Nancy informed the group of upcoming conferences: 6-12 in Westchester and a three day (July 24-26) in Ithaca.

Continued
Tree Commission
Minutes from 6-4-08

There was some discussion on the development process for a Tree Management Plan. There are many examples to draw upon and Nancy will email a reference from the Town of Greece.

Nancy spoke about the Cornell SWAT (Specialized Weekend Arborist Team) group which is \$3000. Linda noted that the Village of Red Hook paid about \$2000 two years ago and housed them over night while the Village of Rhinebeck paid about \$1500 last year but used adult volunteers also.

Nancy is enthusiastic in utilizing the services of DEC forester, Lou Sebesta, and Dutchess County Cooperative Extension agent, Stephanie Mallozzi to assist us with our charge. The members of the Tree Commission felt we would have to divide the town into quadrants and inventory over several years. It was suggested that we start in the public spaces at the Recreation Park and the schools. Some questioned if we should include the schools but others felt our mission is to make contact with all sorts of groups. In addition, Nancy explained our goal is to educate the public and she looks forward to the group sponsoring a public pruning workshop.

Eleanor noted that there is a problem getting rid of brush in residential communities like Linden Acres where burning is not allowed. The group felt a day or two set aside for brush chipping might be arranged through the town's highway department.

Nancy noted that the Town's CAC made a slide presentation to the town board and the public on the town's watershed. Linda noted it was well prepared and informative.

The group would like to make contact with Central Hudson regarding their tree trimming practices. Linda noted there was a past problem last year with inappropriate trimming of the Pitcher Lane trees and other areas. A meeting was held with them and representatives from the town. The minutes can be "Googled" and are archived on the town's website.

The Commission would also like to exchange minutes with the Planning Board.

Nancy noted "phyto-remediation" is a term used when establishing new planting areas.

Linda suggested that the group purchase a digital camera and have a town computer assigned to the group so that the upcoming tree inventory is not located on a private home computer. The digital photos can be used within grant submissions, posting to the newspapers and for bulletin board displays. A town computer database, in the town hall, would make it easier for all to enter and upgrade the inventories.

Rosemarie noted that she does not access her email account and would like all the past minutes in hard copy.

Continued
Tree Commission
Minutes from 6-4-08

Nancy noted, due to Trilby's resignation, we are in need of a fifth member. She encouraged all to think about who might fill this slot.

Brenda Cagle, town CAC chair, had emailed the Planning Board chair, Christine Kane, about the Tree Commission and its focus along with its potential collaboration on submitted future site plans.

Rosemarie pointed out that Ruge's automotive had the macadam removed and trees planted. Overall, the group is proud of the recent tree planting progress and feels the momentum is strong.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 30th at 7:00 pm at the town hall.

Concluded: Rosemarie motioned to end the meeting and Eleanor seconded it. All agreed. The meeting ended at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling
TPC Secretary
June 26, 2008

Minutes approved: June 30, 2008