

Town of Red Hook
Tree Preservation Commission

Minutes

August 4, 2008

Attendance: Nancy Guski, Rosemarie Zengen, and Eleanor Friery (4:15 pm)

Absent: Karen Cadorette and Marcy Appell

Guest: none

Purpose: This is the regular monthly meeting of the Commission.

Call to Order: Chairperson Nancy Guski called the meeting to order at 4:15 pm.

Minutes: Eleanor Friery motioned to accept the minutes from 6-30-08 and Rosemarie Zengen seconded, all agreed.

Discussions:

Tree Commission Mentioned: Nancy noted that the Tree Commission (TC) was mentioned in the town's Planning Board minutes recently regarding the Bottini site.

Hand-outs: Nancy Guski handed out reading materials for the group's edification.

1. Nov. 9, 2006: Minutes of the Special Joint Tree Meeting
2. Feb. 20, 2008: CAC Committee Report
3. May 6, 2008: Tree Preservation Commission Report

Urban & Community Forestry Grant: Rhinebeck will be receiving a joint \$40,000 matching tree grant. Nancy Guski thought the Tree Commission should start planning well ahead for the June 2009 deadline. She thought we should apply for an inventory survey assistance grant. She handed out maps of Red Hook so the TC could plan the areas to be surveyed. She noted there are certain buzz-word phrases that are appropriate to grants like the term "green infrastructure".

Conference Attendance: Nancy noted that the overall theme was trees in the community not just backyards. Trees should be planned for in the infrastructure of a community and incorporated into the major planning documents like: Comprehensive Plan, Open Space, Zoning, etc. Nancy showed a map indicating the three major forested areas in Red Hook: Hudson River, Spring Lake and Sepasco Lake area. There were other towns represented from the northwestern area with the speaker from California. The emphasis was on:

- being in contact with your legislatures,
- build competency among board members,
- work on collaboration (public works, Planning and Zoning Boards, etc.),
- "think outside the bark", and
- take courses in best management practices.

Nancy Guski took an Ithaca street trees walk with Dr. Nina Bassuk who helped Cornell patent "structural soil" for narrow street island plantings. Nancy was very appreciative of

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having gone with Brenda Cagle as she has a growing reputation as a trained, competent street tree inventory leader.

Hand-outs: Nancy gathered two booklets from the Urban Horticultural Institute, Cornell University for the TC members.

1. "Using CU-Structural Soil in the Urban Environment"
2. "Using Porous Asphalt and CU-Structural Soil"

Nancy Guski was very impressed with both the *structural soil amendment process* and the *pervious asphalt* which allows water to flow through the surface and looks similar to the impervious macadam presently used in parking lots. It's a bit more expensive but decreases run-off into streams. She noted that a 10% impervious pavement produces a 1600% run-off rate.

Focus of Commission: Nancy thought we should compose a list of priorities for the group:

- Forested Areas
- Tree Planting List
- Licensed and Insured Arborist List
- Planning Board Liaison
- Creating an Advice Document
- Timber Harvesting and Clear Cutting

Two pamphlets were distributed to members for reading:

1. Guide to Forestry....Eleanor
2. Timber Harvesting.....Rosemarie

Nancy noted that Red Hook has 112 lane miles of roads according to Supt. Wayne Hildenbrandt.

Fall Planting: Everyone was eager to do more tree plantings. Rosemarie suggested getting trees donated by local businesses like Agway, Phantom Garden, Grandiflora and Lobotsky etc. A suggestion was to continue planting within the present Recreational Park as an extension of the last planting there. Recreational Dept. Chairman John Kuhn was very cooperative previously. It was suggested perhaps the walkway around the fields could be treed as there is no shade on the majority of the footpath trail.

Hardscrabble Day: Rosemarie Zengen suggested to Nancy Guski to contact the Village Hardscrabble Committee to let them know what we are planning for the Sept. 20th event so we can be included in their events calendar. Nancy Guski thought it might be fun to give each child a "tree cookie" made by cutting a slice from a tree showing the tree rings. Others thought the idea was good but might be very time consuming to make. Some

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thought maybe giving out decorate-your-own cookies in the form of a tree might be better. Eleanor Friery volunteered her white 12 ft. by 12 ft. tent and a table for the day.

Rosemarie Zengen thought the different activities should have its own area to avoid crowding in one area. Linda Keeling indicated she still had the bulletin board she created from the last event which could be used again.

Tree Acquisition Sub-Committee: Rosemarie Zengen and Linda Keeling volunteered to visit businesses to get the tree donations and will report on their progress at the next meeting.

Educational Outreach for Arbor Day: Eleanor felt that we should start planning on the Mill Rd. Nature Trail by getting the K-3 children involved in the project. Nancy gave Eleanor a brochure on "Project Learning Tree". Teacher Steve Hart is very interested in outdoor education. A suggestion was to sponsor an Arbor Day poster contest. Nancy would like to make a list of tree related books and perhaps have the school children read so many books to qualify to cause a tree to be planted. The idea will need to be worked on more in the days ahead.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 8, 2008 at 4:00 pm at the town hall.

Concluded: Rosemarie Zengen motioned to end the meeting and Eleanor Friery seconded it; all agreed. The meeting ended at 5:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling
TPC Secretary
August 5, 2008

Approved 10-1-08