

Town of Red Hook
Tree Preservation Commission

Minutes

November 18, 2008

Attendance: Nancy Guski (chairman), Eleanor Friery, Marcy Appell, Rosemarie Zengen and Karen Cadorette

Absent: none

Guest: none

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

Call to Order: Chairperson Nancy Guski called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Minutes: Eleanor Friery motioned to accept the minutes of 10-21-08 and Rosemarie Zengen seconded, all agreed.

Discussions:

1. *Tree Commission Budget:* Chairman Nancy Guski indicated she met with Supervisor Sue Crane about the \$1400 with her plan for several expenditures. Due to the economic recession, Supervisor Crane noted that \$500 is still available to the Commission for the remainder of 2008. All Committees will be reduced by 50% so the Commission will be getting \$1,000 for 2009. Nancy will prepare an end-of-the-year report which will be helpful for preparing the grant. In light of the reduced budget for the group, Rosemarie Zengen volunteered to run future fundraisers.

Chairman Guski noted that 6 vibernum were purchased from Schicktel's for \$38 each without shipping as it was a bundled order with the Village of Red Hook. The shrubs were planted on Saturday, November 8th. Six adults and one student helped plant (Nancy Guski, Marcy Appell, Eleanor Friery, Linda Keeling, Ed Guski, Ted and John Ireland from Who Cares Club.) Nancy Guski showed several photographs of the planters. A joint luncheon with the Village Green members was held at the town hall. The Commission noted their thanks to Jean Duntz and Sue McCann for orchestrating the meal and securing the room.

2. *Tree City Application:* Chairman Guski has the application nearly completed. It includes: naming the board members, dates of meetings, ordinance reference, annual work plan, break down of forestry expenditures, Arbor Day program and Proclamation signed by the Supervisor. A question arose as to where these materials are being housed. It was suggested that Nancy ask Brenda Cagle of the CAC if one draw is available for the Tree Commission to store these important documents, thereby making it accessible to all

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members for their perusal. Nancy Guski handed out a sheet entitled: "Forestry Management Plan Proposal" with 14 points for all to view. As an aside, Nancy Guski noted that the Arbor Day Guide is 80 pages long and quite substantial as an educational hand-out for the children's program at Mill Rd.

3. *Urban & Community Forestry Grant*: Chairman Guski noted that the grant notification will come out in March and is due in early May. This is a change from last year which was due in early June. The two year matching grant will probably be reduced to \$15,000 from \$20,000 last year. Chairman Guski suggested the Commission do an inventory at a cost of \$3,000 utilizing the services of the Cornell SWAT (Specialized Weekday Arborist Team) group. She showed the Village of Rhinebeck's planning document which contained recommendations and colored graphs. She noted that the SWAT team will cover 12 miles or 1000 trees. The Commission was impressed with the quality of the lengthy document and Karen Cadorette could attest to the ease of the process when the Village's Green group used the Cornell students and staff.

Chairman Guski handed out a two-sided sheet which described what the SWAT group does:

- A. Work with the community to begin the planning process for street tree management.
- B. Organize the completion of an inventory of the street trees.
- C. Gather data on tree species distribution and maintenance needs.
- D. Determine location of the existing planting spaces.
- E. Provide a list of appropriate species for new plantings.
- F. Present an outline of the inventory results.
- G. Provide an electronic copy of the entire inventory for updating.
- H. Serve as a resource for future questions.

The survey should take 1-5 days. A two day inventory costs between \$2,000 and \$3,000 at \$10 per hour per team member. The related web link is www.hort.cornell.edu/commfor

The outcomes are:

1. Cost-effective computerized inventory;
2. Tools for management planning;
3. Enhanced benefits to the health of the community forest;
4. Decreased risk and cost associated with tree failures; and,
5. Leverage future grant dollars.

Chairman Guski handed out a map of the town for the group to discuss what 12 miles of roadway they would like covered by the survey. The Commission members wanted to include a sampling portion of Tivoli outside the Village, farmland, scenic and historic roads and gateways.

Rosemarie motioned that the 12 miles cover the scenic historic district's River Road to Rt. 199, the agricultural areas of West Kerley Corners and Pitcher Lane, Linden Ave to Rt. 199 and Crestwood Rd. to the Village. Karen Cadorette seconded. All agreed.

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4. Community Outreach: Eleanor Friery will be meeting with the Building Level on Dec. 1st. They are very interested in working with the Tree Commission. Eleanor thanked Linda Keeling for the Fiskar's grant which they are very interested in. Nancy Guski is meeting with the Who Cares Club advisor Mary Pat Budd on Thursday at 3:30 pm.

5. Wetlands Trail: Chairman Guski noted that she and Linda Keeling walked the trail after planting the shrubs at the Recreational Park and noticed some trees that need removal as well as an accumulation of trash. Nancy would like the Who Cares Club to adopt this walkway to help clean up the trash and form a sense of ownership over time.

6. New Recreational Park: Nancy Guski mentioned that Recreational Director John Kuhn has mentioned that they would like to try to use structural soil and pervious asphalt in the newly acquired Recreational Park land.

7. Trees and Developers: Rosemarie Zengen thought there should be a liaison between the Planning Board and the Commission. Marcy Appell explained that a subdivision initiates the authority of the Planning Board to mark trees that should be protected. Nancy Guski volunteered to attend an upcoming Planning Board meeting to feel them out on how the Tree Commission could help in educating the developers. Some discussions focused on the new development along Firehouse Lane and how the trees were not planted for several weeks, planted too close to the driveway and were not watered throughout the growing season. Karen Cadorette thought there is probably printed tree care materials already developed that might be helpful to property developers.

8. Recycled Christmas Tree Mulch: Since we are not meeting in December, it was suggested that the Chairman make contact with the town's recycling coordinator regarding recycling Christmas trees into mulch so it can be spread around newly planted trees for the Spring. It was felt this would be another great way to get our message out to the public and encourage the focusing on trees even throughout the winter.

Next Meeting: There will be no meeting in December.

Concluded: Karen Cadorette motioned to end the meeting and Rosemarie Zengen seconded, all agreed. The meeting ended at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling,
TPC Secretary
Nov. 19, 2008

Approved 1-20-09 as corrected