

Town of Red Hook
Tree Preservation Commission

Minutes

June 30, 2008

Attendance: Nancy Guski, Rosemarie Zengen, and Karen Cadorette

Absent: Eleanor Friery

Guest: none

Call to Order: Chairperson Nancy Guski called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

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

Minutes: Rosemarie motioned to accept the minutes from 6-4-08, Karen seconded, all agreed.

Discussions:

Member Address List: Linda noted that she had sent out a member address list and will upgrade it when the new member is voted and accepted into the Commission. She would like to do an address check twice per year as sometimes phone numbers and email addresses change. Nancy thought that was an excellent suggestion.

Tree Budget Discussion: Nancy had spoken with Rose Rider, Budget Officer to the Town Board. Nancy listed some of the items they discussed from our “wish list”: conferences, workshops, tree maintenance, reference books, seedlings, Rec. Park shrubs (Karen estimated \$200 using 6 volunteer planters), inventory (\$2000-\$3000), signs for highway, tree tags (\$42 per bunch), computer, money for the secretary (Rose included that already), \$2 per capita (included in the annual tree maintenance line item which is about \$22,000). Karen noted that the Village of Red Hook has two line items. Linda noted that the Village has a memorial tree donation system in place and uses the water bill to do a “bakeless bake sale”. It works very well and donations do come in. Rosemarie volunteered to do a future fundraising event.

Conference Attendance: Nancy noted that she will be attending the July 24-26 Urban Forestry Conference at Cornell, at a cost of \$200. She wants to attend the following sessions: “Public Works”, “SWAT Inventory”, “Tree Ordinance and Board” and “Streams and Storm Management”. Everyone agreed to the choices and felt the information would be very beneficial to the group.

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Number of Meetings so Far: Linda noted that this is our 6th meeting with one major event and Nancy has attended two workshops so far. Noting this information will make the end-of-the year report due at the end of November easier to complete.

Village Lake Background: The group discussed the lake in the Village center. Linda gave some background as it was originally a drainage ditch leading towards Hofmann's Farms, but over the years the drain collapsed and the lake was formed. It is owned by three land owners. All of the buildings' septic flows into this area causing algae bloom but could be improved with an aerator system to increase the oxygen level. One member noted years ago, it used to be crystal clear and people would skate on it during the winter. All felt this is a valuable resource and should be improved. Rosemarie has had discussions privately with the Health Dept. regarding our water resources. Linda thought some concern should be for Bard College's continued growth and its impact on the volume of water tower #1. She was wondering if the college has installed flow restrictors and if they are encouraging the students and staff to reduce their draw down. Everyone appreciates the work done over the years by Mr. Van Parys and his water board committee to ensure a high standard of potable water for the public.

Planning Board Chair Contact: Nancy read out loud the past emails between Brenda Cagle, Christine Kane of the Planning Board and herself. Christine is eager to work with us but she is limited in her time as she works full time. Christine had commented that the trees planted at Ruge's by the DOT did not have site plan approval. It is noted that each government agency NYSDOT, Dutchess County and the Town each have their own standards regarding tree planting. The Tree Commission has noted this and feels it is therefore all the more important that we try to communicate early-on with all the groups involved. Nancy commented that considering the former, at least macadam was removed and the trees were planted off the sidewalk area and in line with the others as recommended.

Luncheon Meeting: Nancy will try to arrange a luncheon meeting with Superintendent of Highways Wayne Hildenbrandt and Christine Kane to start the discussions on working and communicating together when trees are scheduled to be planted or taken down.

Timber Harvesting: Another topic was timber harvesting. Nancy distributed a 5 page document on timber harvesting and a two page document on tree setbacks from the University of Massachusetts for all to read later. Linda described DEC's oversight over properties doing harvesting. She suggested talking to the Assessor as the land must be designated in order to do it commercially. Michele Greig, Planner to the Town, is working on upgrading the zoning regulations on this topic.

New Member Volunteer: Nancy introduced Marcy Appell who has agreed to serve on the Commission. Everyone was delighted as she has a wealth of information as the former town planning chairperson, Winnakee board member and involved in the Planning Federation. Rosemarie motioned to accept Marcy as a new member and Karen seconded. All agreed. She will be appointed at the July 1 town board workshop. Linda will gather

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the past minutes for Rosemarie who doesn't access email and for the newest member to be, Marcy.

Tree Ordinance Rules: There was some discussion about tree ordinance rules article, formerly given to the members, on how to protect trees. Karen noted there should be written guidelines especially for homeowners so they don't dig up service utilities which can be a \$70,000 fine. The utilities will do a site visit for free to mark off the area.

Inventory Start: Linda suggested we start our inventory at St. Margaret's as it is a National Register historical property, located on the visible Rt. 9 and could provide an easy first attempt for volunteers.

Educational Outreach: Rosemarie was very enthusiastic about doing an educational weekend for the public involving children, for example: Friday: kids prune trees; Sat. 9-11 new plantings, 12-2 Tree Identification, 2-4 legal issues regarding trees; Sunday: walk a treed trail. Karen has an employee that loves to do public presentations. Nancy noted that we have never considered a weekend event but rather monthly one night events. Everyone thought we should try this as a test example. All were very excited about doing public presentations either as a weekend or throughout the year.

Spring Work Project: Nancy thought that Eleanor's former mention of the Nature Trail at the Elementary School might be good for the Spring of 2009 as a work project. She noted that because we are newly formed, we are in the information gathering stage.

Town Website Presence: Linda thought we should ask to have a page on the website. Nancy will mention this to Sue McCann to see what is involved.

Brush Disposal: The brush disposal issue came up again without a resolution but something to be discussed with Wayne to see what might be arranged to help out homeowners without a way of carting it for chipping. This would also help in not putting more pollutants into the air through burning brush piles.

Next Meeting: Monday, August 4th, 7:00 pm at the town hall.

Concluded: Karen motioned to end the meeting and Rosemarie seconded it. All agreed. The meeting ended at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling
TPC Secretary
July 3, 2008
Approved Aug. 4, 2008