

Town of Red Hook

Tree Preservation Commission

January 20, 2009

**Minutes**

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

**Absent:** none

**Guest:** Susan Findel (a Rhinebeck friend of Karen Cadorette who is interested in trees)

**Purpose:** This is a regular monthly meeting of the Commission. The discussion will focus on the DEC Urban & Community Forestry grant and other upcoming activities.

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

**Minutes:** Eleanor Friery noted an “er” is needed on the word “draw” at the bottom of page one “Tree City Application”, so the fourth sentence should be “drawer”. Karen Cadorette noted that on page 3 under item 7 last sentence, she noted that we already handed out materials during Hardscrabble Day. Eleanor added that she has purchased as a donation tree guides for distribution to the children. Rosemarie Zengen motioned to accept the minutes with the correction for the 11-18-08 minutes and Marcy Appell seconded, all agreed.

**Discussions:**

1. *Urban & Community Forestry Grant:* Chairman Guski handed out a two page outline. The Tree Commission needs to come up with a catchy name for the grant. Nancy suggested “Yes we can be green!” She is open to other suggestions. Chairman Guski and grant writer, Linda Keeling, met for two hours to discuss various areas of the grant. Linda supplied an outline of suggested outreach programs which Nancy read to the group. Everyone thought the suggestions for workshops, presenters, slide shows and building blue bird houses and various themed lunches will be helpful to the grant application. Linda explained that last year’s grant had three required pages and supplemental pages could be added as necessary. The outline describing the activities is a critical piece along with letters of support from various groups involved or supporting in general. In addition, a list of the tree species and their planting locations is required. Nancy is already soliciting letters from various organizations.

2. *Ann Rubin’s Watershed CAC Project:* Marcy mentioned that the ZRC had talked about the parking lots. Ann Rubin of the town’s CAC is leading a project entitled SAND (water shed

Town of Red Hook Tree Commission Minutes of 1-20-09

issues) dealing with the aquifer. Nancy asked Eleanor Friery to look over the materials and see if she would like to get involved with that project.

3. Hudsonia's Biodiversity (B.A.T.) Workshops: Chairman Nancy Guski explained that about a dozen volunteers, including Linda Keeling, met with Hudsonia recently to discuss training sessions from now until October on learning how to do a Biodiversity inventory using various maps and field work. Only the northeast part of Red Hook consisting of about 1200 acres will be selected for the mapping which will be a generalized method of assessing and designating potential plant and animal habitats. This is a big project. Most meetings will last 4 hours.

4. Parking Lots: Marcy Appell of the ZRC mentioned that Sam Phelan of the Planning Board is interested in controlling parking lots.

5. Rain Gardens: Marcy Appell mentioned that rain gardens are not self-sustaining as they need lots of maintenance work. Most felt it would not be all that much time involved and still an important aspect of any landscape design.

6. U&CF Grant and Talks with Supervisor: Nancy talked with Supervisor Sue Crane regarding the U&CF grant. Sue felt it will be more difficult to get things established for the garage due to having new board members. It may not be feasible to plant trees at the town's campus due to the delay in building the garage facility. Linda Keeling felt that the Rt. 9 front section surrounding the town hall could use lots of trees or other plantings. The division island between the town hall and Rhinebeck bank could use trees, shrubbery and flowers. Everyone liked the idea of a mini green pocket park in this area with a partial pathway connecting the town hall to the bank. They felt this was a doable project and would lend much to the greening environment.

7. Tree City Application: Chairman Guski informed the group that the application had been sent in as well as the inventory.

8. School Outreach: Eleanor Friery explained that Linda Kuhn is very supportive of the Tree Commission's outreach to the school system. Eleanor will get a letter of support from the principal for the grant.

9. Recreation Park Map and Trees for Tribes Grant: Chairman Guski distributed a map of the Recreation Park and discussed potential planting sites. She mentioned that a mini DEC "Trees for Tribes" grant is available for planting along waterways. She thought more trees should be planted along the Sawkill in the park to help stabilize the banks. Nancy feels John Kuhn will be supportive of this effort.

10. Schedule of Things To Do: Chairman Guski reviewed a schedule of things to do in the upcoming months with a particular focus on the UC&F grant schedule and the Arbor Day celebration in April. Some discussion focused on the possibility of developing a workshop for the Planning Board members and developers on the protection of trees during construction.

Town of Red Hook Tree Commission Minutes of 1-20-09

**Next Meeting:** The next regular meeting is February 17, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the town hall. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling,  
TPC Secretary  
January 28, 2009  
Approved March 17, 2009  
April 1, 2009