

Town of Red Hook

Tree Preservation Commission

March 17, 2009

Minutes

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

Absent: Rosemarie Zengen

Guest: none

Purpose: This is a regular monthly meeting of the Commission. The discussion will focus on the upcoming Arbor Day related activities.

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

Minutes: The meeting scheduled for Feb. 17th was previously canceled. Eleanor Friery motioned to accept the minutes from January 20th and Karen Cadorette seconded, all agreed.

Discussions:

1. *Agenda and Hand-outs:*

Chairman Nancy Guski handed out an agenda and other related materials on:

- a. *“Rain Gardens, Water Quality in Mind”*, workshop March 28th, 8:45 am – noon, at the Town of Ulster Town Hall.
- b. *“Preventing Stormwater Pollution, Tips for Homeowners. How You Can Help Protect Water Quality in Your Community”*, along with single sheets for frequently asked questions about *“Stormwater Runoff”* and *“Imperviousness”*.

2. *Gardner’s Day Workshop:* No one will be going to the Gardner’s Day in Millbrook on April 18th.

3. *Letter of Support and U&CF Grant Status:* Chairman Guski presented a letter of support from the K-2 Mill Rd. principal Donna Gaynor for the proposed tree grant. There were questions about the NYS funding for the U&CF grant. Both Nancy Guski and Linda Keeling agreed that the funding is not certain at this point and other grants may be considered in lieu if this particular grant is not funded through the State’s budget. Grant writer, Linda Keeling, noted that she did not start writing as she didn’t want to waste the town’s grant money and is willing to transfer her contract to another grant, if necessary. More information might be available at the Arbor Day Ceremony in Albany.

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4. Albany Tree City USA Award Celebration: Chairman Guski inquired who might be able to attend the Albany Tree City USA award celebration on March 26th. None of the members were available but Linda Keeling was willing to attend with Brenda Cagle and others as the group's representative to gather information and materials to hand out to the public for our town's Arbor Day celebration.

5. DEC website information: There was some discussion on parking lots and imperviousness. Attention focused on the Department of Environmental Conservation's website on heat island effects as modified by trees and vegetation at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/30344.html>.

6. Arbor Day Celebration on Sat., April 25th, 9 a.m. – noon:

a. Chairman Nancy Guski noted that the Friends of the Red Hook Library donated \$150 for the purchase of 70 tree guides to be distributed on April 25th. Due to a conflict with his schedule, Hudson Talbot will read his book River of Dreams at the Village Hall on a later day in May.

b. Nancy ordered tree seedlings from the D.C. Soil and Water Dept. at a cost of \$180 to the Tree Commission's budget. They are all native species. Some will be planted in wet areas along the Wetlands Walk at the Recreation Park.

c. Tree seedlings (50) will be given away at our tented booth on the front lawn of the library.

d. Tree guide booklets (70) have been attained with help from the Botstein fund.

e. Eleanor Friery discussed the updates to the 10 station Nature Trail tree guide with the help from Melissa Levy and Steve Hart. She updated her letter to the Mill Rd. Elementary school.

1. Trees for classes that read four books about trees (K-2)

2. Ms. Alicia O'Shea will help coordinate the filming of the kindergarten classes singing, planting and talking about trees with the help of professional movie filmer, Ted Saad on March 24th. CD's will be made, distributed and, hopefully, played on PANDA TV 23.

3. Ms. Kuhn's first grade class will be highlighted for their devoted care of a flourishing maple tree outside their window.

f. Volunteers will make tree cookies for disbursement to the children. Cabinet maker, Ernie Churchill, volunteered to cut branches into slices.

g. The Linden Ave. Middle School Who Cares Environmental group will monitor the Wetlands Walk for trash and plant some seedlings: American Cranberry, Buttonbush, Witch Hazel and Sassafras. They will also plant a maple to complete the line of maples by the tennis courts.

h. On Wed., May 6th, Tree Commission members and friends, will plant 150 riparian plantings (trees and bushes) acquired through the DEC Trees for Tribes grant along 200 feet of the

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Sawkill Stream to help stabilize the stream bank. This is worth about \$4,000 in personnel time and plant costs.

i. After our winter Rec. Park Sawkill Stream walk, DEC Riparian Buffer Coordinator, Kevin Grieser, offered to prune the trees in the Rec. Park parking lot.

j. Volunteers will meet at Nancy Guski's house on Thurs., April 2, 10:00 a.m., to make tree cookie necklaces and refrigerator magnet decorations.

k. Chairman Guski noted we still need to work on the Forestry Management Plan.

l. Nancy Guski noted that the Hudson River Estuary Program is offering a free Biodiversity course in cooperation with Hudsonia. Nancy Guski and Linda Keeling plan on attending this 10 month course to learn how to use various types of maps to locate possible unmapped wetland areas.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting is April 21, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the town hall. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month.

Concluded: Eleanor Friery 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
April 7, 2009
Corrected and Approved 4-13-09