

Draft

Town of Red Hook

Tree Preservation Commission

Minutes: June 16, 2009

Attendance: Nancy Guski (Chairperson) Eleanor Friery, Marcy Appell, Rose Zengen and Karen Cadorette

Absent: none

Guest: none

Purpose: Regular monthly meeting of the Commission held on the third Tuesday of every month

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

Minutes: The minutes from May 19th were accepted without corrections.

Discussions:

1. Rain Garden Presentation, May 16th: The Rain Garden presentation and the Hudson Talbott book talk were sparsely attended with about a dozen people attending each event at the Village Hall. We are not sure if it was because of a lack of interest, poor timing (Saturday afternoon at 2:00 pm in the very busy month of May) or not advertized well enough.

2. Vandalized Rec Park Trees: Chairperson Nancy Guski reported that about 20 trees and shrubs from the "Trees for Tribs" planting had been vandalized. This will be reported to the proper authorities.

3. Urban & Community Forestry Grant: The D.E.C. grant notification for the U&CF grant probably won't be published until December. It was originally supposed to be released in March of 2009. We discussed the possibility of looking into other grants. It seemed to be the consensus that we should apply to other grants in addition to applying to the U&CF grant.

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4. Forestry Management Plan: We talked about getting back to the Forestry Management Plan.

5. Commemorative Tree Program: Rose Zengen raised the issue of a Commemorative Tree Program. She had been approached by a couple of the town's people who would like to see one implemented. Marcy Appell was concerned about where the trees would be planted. The Village of Red Hook's Village Green has a Commemorative Tree Program for any occasion. They charge \$100.00 plus the wholesale cost of the tree. They help the applicant select an appropriate tree. Karen Cadorette has information about this issue which she will bring to the next meeting. Nancy Guski will talk to John Kuhn about possible plantings in our parks.

6. Rt. 9 South Sidewalk Project: Nancy Guski shared the following remarks from a letter sent to D.F. Wheeler Engineers, PC, about the Community Development Block Grant funded sidewalk project on the west side of Rt. 9 South (opposite M&T Bank, Holy Cow, St. Margaret's and Hannaford's location):

"In reference to the last paragraph of your letter dated May 19, 2009 requesting tree plantings between the curb and sidewalk; Due to sight distance and other traffic safety concerns the Department does not allow such placement. However, they may be placed behind the sidewalk. Please note that ANY plantings in the New York State ROW (right of way) are subject to review and approval by the Regional Landscape Group. Chuck A. Walter, Permit Inspector North and Central Dutchess Co."

This seems to confirm the Tree Commission's support for setback planting as a best practice.

7. Hardscrabble Day, Sept. 26th: We discussed some thoughts about Hardscrabble Day. We will have a booth to distribute pertinent tree information. Other ideas focused on perhaps making and distributing more tree cookies, featuring an artist who does wood cuts, do some fundraising activity and/or display furniture made from recycled wood.

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8. Conference Notification: Nancy Guski shared information about the NYS Urban Forestry Conference to be held at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY on July 16-19th, 2009.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting is July 21, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the town hall.

Concluded: The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Guski,
TPC Chairperson

Retyped and revised by Linda Keeling,
Tree Commission Secretary, 7/12/09