

Town of Red Hook
Tree Preservation Commission

Minutes: October 20, 2009

Attendance: Chairperson Nancy Guski, Marcy Appell, Eleanor Friery and Rose Zengen

Absent: Karen Cadorette

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 7:05 pm. and presented the committee with the evening's agenda.

Minutes: There were no corrections. Eleanor Friery moved to accept the minutes from September 15, 2009, Marcy Appell seconded the motion, all agreed.

Discussions:

1. Hardscrabble Day Report: Rosemarie Zengen who was in charge of this area described the location and activities. The wooden objects for sale made a nice display but not much was sold. Due to the CAC's location set-up, the woodcarver was not very visible to the public. The paper quilt blanket was a big hit with the children. A suggestion was made to take a digital picture of it and possibly get it framed. Another thought was to turn it into a calendar as a fundraiser, but the group felt that too many other groups are making calendars. Nancy will prepare it as a hanging display in the town hall. Rose Zengen mentioned that her friend, Amelia who works for the NYC DEC and works with children commented that she was very impressed with the activities involving the children and getting the message out to the public.

Some discussion focused on using the event as a fundraiser. Nancy Guski noted that we did have weather sticks for sale and sold two. She noted that they do work. The remainder can be sold at different future events.

Thank you letters on town stationery will be sent to: *Amelia* for donating her time at our table, *Terry's Bakery* for edible tree cookies, *Kevin Rifenburg* for wood carving display, *Linda Keeling* for edible sugar cookies, bulletin board displays, ninebark tree lotteries (3 local winners) and wearing the tree costume in the parade, *Grande Flora* for tree list and *Ernie Churchill* for branch cookie cutting and wormy chestnut cabinet display. *Todd Baright* will be thanked by the Hardscrabble Committee for the use of his front lawn.

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We raised \$77.05 through donations. Nancy Guski added to it to make \$80. Special thanks to *Eleanor Friery* and *Bill* for her tent, set-up and take down. She also contacted Jill Johnson in Washington, D.C. for which the master was sent for the tree care booklets. Fifty booklets cost about \$70 to get reproduced. The public appreciated getting this free information and the left overs can be distributed at other events. Overall, the day was productive in making the public aware of our services to the community.

2. Budget: Nancy talked with Debbie Marks about the line items in the budget for clarification. She explained that this was originally a CAC line for trees so it was left in. In the 2009 budget, we have \$.09. In the 2010 budget, we will start with \$1,000.

3. Trees for Tribs: Chairman Nancy Guski noted that the planting date is set for Sat. Oct. 24th, (her birthday) 9:00 am at the Rec Park stream. DEC gave 35 free tree replacements. They included: 10 witch hazels, 5 serviceberries, 5 elderberries, 5 cranberries, 5 ninebarks and 5 dogwoods.

4. Grant Situation: Nancy Guski and Linda Keeling met for several hours recently about potential grants. The DEC Urban & Community Forestry grant probably will not be made available this year due to the State budget problems. So Linda and Nancy researched and made an agreement on a few grant possibilities: Captain Planet (\$2500 tools and money) and Fiskars (\$2500 also) “The Project Orange Thumb Program” to start. Eleanor Friery mentioned the Botstein Fund can be tapped. The guide done in 2001 will need to be redone. The floppy disk, done in Word 6.0, was copied onto a CD but Eleanor could not open it even with the help of her son as she has Windows XP.

Steve Hart has naturalized a portion of the trail (100 ft. x 40 ft.). He would like some benches in the outdoor classroom area. Linda asked about the accessibility issue for both kids and teachers in wheelchairs. Eleanor explained that it is wide enough and flat enough to accommodate for this.

There is a need for wood chips, Nancy thought since we planted trees in the Rec Park, perhaps they would be willing to help with the trail so the weeds could be controlled. Nancy will look into this.

Eleanor would like to see DEC foresters give a talk about the trail, Nancy will check with Lou Sebestor (sp?) from DEC. The trail can be done in about 30 minutes.

5. Forestry Management Plan: This is an area that still needs to be addressed. Nancy Guski will ask John Kuhn and Doug Strawinski of the Rec Park about additional woodchips for the trail. Eleanor Friery noted that in 1983 Con Ed would provide free wood chips but in the late 1980’s it was difficult to come by. Steve Hart, Melissa Levy and Principal Donna Gaynor are still interested in the Mills Rd. Nature Trail revitalization.

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6. Commemorative Tree Program: Rosemarie Zengen described the figures given to her by Ken Giek for the plaque costs. She will call him regarding the spots and determine a list of trees appropriate for this area. Karen Cadorette can probably provide the Tree Commission with a tree list.

Next Meeting: The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on the third Tuesday in November 17 at 7:00 pm.

Concluded: Rose Zengen motioned to end the meeting at 8:45 pm and Eleanor Friery seconded, all agreed and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary

Approved 11-17-09, no corrections