

Town of Red Hook  
Tree Preservation Commission  
**Minutes: November 17, 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 at the Town Hall.

**Call to Order:** Chairperson Nancy Guski called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. and presented the committee with the evening's agenda.

**Minutes:** There were no corrections. Marcy Appell moved to accept the minutes from October 20, 2009, Eleanor Friery seconded the motion, all agreed.

**Discussions:**

*1. Proposed Grant Application(s):* The Commission discussed the written proposal sent to each member from grant writer Linda Keeling for *Captain Planet*. She noted that she met with Nancy Guski again then walked the trail several times and read the manual. Eleanor Friery indicated that she would like to share this proposal with Mill Road School's Steve Hart who has put a great amount of effort into working on the Trail. Chairman Nancy Guski noted that this is just a working draft and member input is welcomed. The proposal is for \$2500 to restore the Nature Trail at Mill Rd. School in partnership with the Tree Commission. It would include: cutting up dead trees and removal, buying and installing new sign posts, and buying, delivering and spreading mulch. Other comments were noted. Linda Keeling will revise the narrative to reflect the group's wishes then submit it to Chairman Guski for approval. The online grant submission is due Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>.

Eleanor Friery noted that *Jean Valla Mc Avoy* of the DEC walked the trail recently as she had done 25 years ago and made some suggestions, for example: reducing the number of stations. We should send her a thank you note. (Education Coordinator, Norrie Point Environmental Center, PO Box 315, Staatsburg, NY; email: [jvmcavoy@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:jvmcavoy@gw.dec.state.ny.us) )

Chairman Guski suggested a map box at the head of the trail. Eleanor Friery thought the location might attract more vandalism. Discussion then focused on the possibility of dividing the Nature Trail booklet into two sections one for students and one for teachers by grade level. Linda Keeling said there are grants for doing publications, one being *Furthermore* (Joan Davidson) of Hudson, NY. Eleanor Friery indicated there are a few teachers willing to rework the manual. Eleanor Friery will set up her old computer so she can access the Nature Trail guide file.

*Town of Red Hook Tree Commission, Draft Minutes from 11-17-09*

Chairman Guski noted that the next grant for consideration is from *Fiskars* due Feb. 15, 2010 for tools (\$1500) and plant materials (\$1,000). She also thought perhaps we could buy a small shed to house the tools on the school's property for maintenance use by the teachers and students. Members thought this would be beneficial for the long term care and use of the tools.

2. *Rain Garden grant*: Chairman Guski mentioned an email notice sent to her by Linda Keeling regarding the installation of two Hyde Park grant funded rain gardens through the *Water Quality Improvement* grant for 2009 for Hyde Park. Linda Keeling noted that this grant is not being offered again for the upcoming year due to the poor economy. Nancy Guski would still like to see one installed in Red Hook and perhaps at Mill Rd. School.

3. *Trees for Tribs Planting*: Chairman Nancy Guski and her husband, Ed, planted the tree replacements (free from D.E.C.) at the Rec Park as others were not available. It took 1.5 hrs. She removed the cylinders as she noticed some mold forming. Hopefully, the saplings will do better with more light and air circulating around them. Jeff Tremper will store the cylinders at the Rec Park. Also, perhaps the removal of the cylinders will allow the trees to blend in more and discourage future vandalism.

4. *Wetlands Walk*: Chairman Guski will contact Mary Pat Budd, Middle School teacher, who has the after school club, Who Cares, to see if they would monitor the Wetlands Walk at the Rec Park.

5. *Plans for 2010*: Chairman Guski noted that we will have been in existence for 2 years come January. She felt we have done a great deal to bring our cause to the people of Red Hook through plantings in the spring and fall, educational hand-outs, Arbor Day and Community Day celebrations, Tree City USA recipients, tree give-aways and \$50,000 worth of D.O.T. trees planted along the main highways in cooperation with Village Green. More needs to be done especially in getting a future tree survey inventory funded and more outreach to school children, finalizing the Commemorative Tree Program, developing guidelines for Developers, etc.

**Next Meeting**: The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on the third Tuesday on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

**Concluded**: Rose Zengen motioned to end the meeting and Marcy Appell seconded, all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary