

DRAFT

Town of Red Hook

Tree Preservation Commission

Minutes: January 19, 2010

Attendance: Chairperson Nancy Guski, Marcy Appell, Eleanor Friery, Rosemarie Zengen, and Karen Cadorette (7:20 pm)

Absent: none

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 7:05 pm.

Minutes: There were no corrections to the minutes of Nov. 17, 2009. Eleanor Friery motioned to accept the minutes and Marcy Appell seconded, all agreed.

Discussions:

1. *Grant Application(s)*: Chairman Guski noted that she met with grant writer, Linda Keeling, at her house and completed the *Captain Planet* online application form for \$2500 to revise the Nature Trail and establish a meadow. Everyone felt it is a wonderful resource for the children and community.

As the chairman received no notice after submitting the grant, she called to find out if they received it. The woman will be searching her emails and get back to Nancy Guski. This grant can be submitted on a quarterly basis. Nancy and Linda will be meeting on Jan. 28th at her house to submit a grant to Fiskars for \$2500, which is due mid Feb.

2. *Nature Trail*: Eleanor Friery and Nancy Guski met with Steve Hart and Principal Gaynor regarding the Nature Trail. Steve removed and relocated trees to the side of the trail.

3. *Relief Meeting*: Chairman Guski and Marcy Appell will attend the meeting at Stoney Kill Farm in Wappinger Falls on Friday, January 22, 2010 to learn about D.E.C. and other grants.

4. *Tree City Application*: Chairman Guski applied to renew our Tree City designation. It was due Dec. 31st, 2009. We had to prove spending the required \$2.00 per person in the town. She indicated that with the highway brush control, the town has contributed \$45,792. She felt we have all the elements: tree board, tree ordinance, forestry program and Arbor Day observance. We have been in existence for just two years but have accomplished a great deal.

5. Educational Outreach: Eleanor Friery has already put together a K-5 outreach program for the elementary school for our Arbor Day Celebration. She handed out a green sheet entitled: "Educational Outreach for Arbor Day". It includes the following activities:

1. Classes adopt a tree on the school grounds: identify and observe changes
2. Participate in Arbor Day poster contest
3. Class to read and discuss four books about trees
4. Invitation to help upgrade the Nature Trail

6. Arbor Day: Nancy Guski noted that Arbor Day is April 30th and we will be planting replacement trees at the Rec Park.

7. Tree City Signs: Rosemarie Zengen wanted to review where the signs are posted as she felt the gateways are very important and helpful to locals for tourists. It introduces us in a friendly ecological way. Nancy Guski said they are near the bowling alley on Rt. 9G, Rt. 9 north and East 199. Nancy will check to see if there is another sign to post on West 199.

Nancy Guski noted that Tree City was started in 1976 with 42 communities. Now there are 3,300 communities involved in planting and caring for trees.

8. Budget for 2010: Rose Rider informed Nancy Guski that \$50 was restored and now we have \$1000 for our tree work. Everyone was pleased and thankful.

9. Town Board Liaison: Last year Micki Strawinski who was unable to make the meetings but did attend some planting activities. This year's liaison is Bill O'Neil. The Commission hopes he can make at least some of the meetings and participate in tree plantings, too.

10. Tree Planting and Site Plans: Linda Keeling had alerted the Commission by email to the Planning Board's minutes of Jan. 4, 2010 referring to the Dunkin Donuts site plan and the reference to consulting with the Tree Commission. Nancy handed out a map of the site plan. Discussion focused on how the Commission should go about assisting the Planning Board on site plan reviews. Marcy Appell served as Planning Board Chairman for 25 years and explained about the zoning code, site plan, existing and vegetation cover, tree sizes, etc. She felt a landscaping plan should be submitted with review by the Tree Commission. Karen Cadorette commented on the proposed white pine plantings which attracts deer. She noted that the Norway spruce can spread 30 to 40 ft. as the proposed buffer to the north.

11. St. Margaret's Free Tree Inventory: Karen Cadorette noted that her husband, arborist James Cadorette, is taking courses to upgrade his knowledge base to be a qualified landscape tree consultant. He has volunteered to plot the trees at St. Margaret's Home as part of his course work's final project. Everyone felt this would be a valuable piece of work, worth several thousands of dollars, to record the existing trees before felling additional trees. Linda Keeling and Rosemarie Zengen are both on the St. Margaret's Committee and will bring this information to the group on Jan. 26th. Linda noted that as a national historic designated property, this will add valuable information for the Office of Park and Historic Recreation to have also.

12. Rec Park Extension Plan: Nancy Guski handed out a map of the proposed extension to the Rec Park. The Tree Commission, again, would like to be involved in the plantings for this new area. Nancy said we have added lots of plantings to the primary Rec Park: 30 on the trail and over 150 along the Sawkill Creek bank.

13. Promotional Material: Karen Cadorette felt the Commission should put together a promotional piece especially for the other committees as to what we can do for them. Some discussion followed in regards to our assisting other boards and committees related to tree purchases, plantings and care of the natural landscape.

Rosemarie Zengen motioned to have the Chairman write a letter to the Town Board with a copy to the Planning Board and Rec Park (Chairman Doug Strawinski) and Director (John Kuhn) related to our services. Karen Cadorette seconded, all agreed.

14. Master Tree List: Nancy Guski asked Karen Cadorette if she could get a Master Tree list prepared. Karen agreed.

Next Meeting: The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on the third Tuesday on February 16, 2010, 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Concluded: Marcy Appell motioned to end the meeting and Eleanor Friery seconded, all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary