

Town of Red Hook
Tree Preservation Commission
Minutes: March 16, 2010

Attendance: Chairperson Nancy Guski, Marcy Appell, Eleanor Friery, Rosemarie Zengen, and Karen Cadorette

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 7:00 pm.

Minutes: There were no corrections to the minutes of January 19, 2010. Marcy Appell motioned to accept the minutes and Karen Cadorette seconded, all agreed.

Discussions:

1. Correspondence:

a. *Weather Stick:* Chairman Guski received a thank you letter from the Weather Stick Company of Vermont. Peter Davis, the inventor of the weather stick is now deceased. To date, they have sold 36,000. Members attested to the accuracy of the stick.

b. *Reappointment Letters:* Marcy Appell and Eleanor Friery received their reappointment letter from the Town Board.

c. *Letter to Committees:* Chairman Guski read a copy of her letter that she sent to the Planning Board Chairman Kane regarding tree information and set back regarding the Dunkin' Donuts parcel. The intent is to open the lines of communication and to let them know the Tree Commission is available to assist them.

d. *John Kuhn,* Director of the Recreation Park, regarding wind screen. White pine is not recommended as the deer eat it. Chairman Guski noted that John Kuhn has been exceedingly helpful and cooperative in allowing the Tree Commission to plant trees in the park.

e. *D.O.T. planting program:* These trees are guaranteed for one year. Three trees did not thrive at Bard College and two trees along Rt. 199. Nancy will contact D.O.T. for replacements. The two trees at Cappuccino's are doing very well.

2. Grants: Nancy Guski reported that the two grants (Captain Planet and Fiskars) were completed on line to work with Mill Road's Woodland Trail and Meadow. Nancy showed a copy of the Fiskars grant. All were impressed with her creative section involving past photos of children and adults planting trees and enjoying the activities during Hardscrabble Day. The Urban Forestry grant has not been posted yet. Linda Keeling feels that this grant may not be approved with New York State's dire economic situation.

3. Tree City Celebration: Chairman Guski noted that this is Thursday, April 1st from 9:30 am till 2:30 pm. at the Holiday Inn in Albany. The whole committee is invited; just email Nancy if you can attend. This event includes a lunch and informational speakers. Awards are given out along with hats, pins, signs, etc. It's a great chance to meet others from various communities in NYS.

4. Rotary Presentation: Chairman Guski presented factual information to the Rotary recently at 7:30 in the morning. Karen Cadorette attended as a Rotary member and she and other Rotarians were impressed by the information presented.

5. Dutchess County Fairgrounds Earth Day: Chairman Guski asked if the Tree Commission members would like to be represented two days, April 24th and 25th at the DC Fairgrounds Earth Day, 10 am – 5pm. The CAC agreed to split the \$200 fee. The group discussed it and determined that it is costly and our budget is reduced this year. The group would rather put their energies into local events in Red Hook.

Rosemarie Zengen motioned that we not participate in the Dutchess County Fairgrounds Earth Day and if anything is done, it should be done locally. Marcy Appell seconded and all agreed.

6. Hardscrabble Day, Sept. 25th: Rosemarie Zengen is on the Hardscrabble Committee. She will make a map to include the Tree Commission, CAC and St. Margaret's Committee at the old brick telephone building owned by Baright. There might be a horse and carriage ride and/or limousine, the Horseless Carriage, to St. Margarets Home for ice cream and sitting on the porch and/or listening to a band. This is the same location as before. Rosemarie will handle the public relations, along with Marcy Appell and Linda Keeling, and donations for a raffle. She will ask Charlie Callejo, again, for donations of frosted tree cookies. The Tree Committee will put out a donation jar.

7. Spring Planting: Eleanor Friery will coordinate the activities at Mill Rd. Elementary School with the first and third grade teachers and students. She reported that Steve Hart is working on upgrading the trail guide. A poster contest will be done again with awards of books given out for created posters to be submitted on the 23rd. The prizes will be given out at the school. The Arbor Day Celebration is Friday, April 30th. Trees will be planted.

Chairman Guski noted that seedlings for the school can be gotten free from D.E.C. She will request 30 free wildlife shrubs. Nancy distributed 12 Arbor Day catalogues. All agreed that it contains some good ideas that we might be able to incorporate into the Hardscrabble Day events. Nancy ordered two trees to replace ones that didn't survive. A crab apple and sugar time will be planted at the Rec Park.

Nancy will contact the middle school “Who Cares Environmental Club” about planting trees and replacing shrubs and picking up garbage on the trail at the Rec Park. Saturday, May 1st the snack bar opens. Displays could be erected at the pavilion. This will help to coordinate the picnic luncheon and the planting of trees. The Proclamation will be read at 10 am and continue planting until about 1 pm. Nancy hopes to have some activities for the children like a scavenger hunt or measure the diameter of a tree. Marcy suggested that this could be a tradition at the park. Rosemarie asked if we have a budget for the advertizing as she would like to also have some posters to put up at the local businesses.

Nancy would like to see some publicity for the Arbor Day events at the school through a press release and flyers.

Karen Cadorette noted that Rotary member, Carl Dowden, is in charge of 40 Interact high school students that can help plant trees. Linda Keeling suggested it might be nice to have an arborist work with the children to calculate board feet with protractors and speak about the trees in general. Karen suggested Integral’s certified arborist Angelo who is a tree warden in Nyack and a former scientist teacher.

8. Management Plan: Chairman Guski mentioned this will be addressed at a later date as we acquire more information on the topic.

9. Urban Forestry Conference: The Conference is the 3rd weekend in July at a cost of \$200. Karen thought it was going to be in Rochester this year.

10. Rockefeller Lane Plantings: Nancy Guski informed the group that oak trees had been planted on both sides of Rockefeller Lane by the CAC. She noted there are 9,640 acres in Red Hook with 40% planted in trees. Rosemarie Zengen mentioned that the proposed sewer district would expand development of about 100 homes on the Hofmann farm involving about 245 acres.

11. Easement: Marcy Appell mentioned that the McKeon’s recently received an easement on nearly 400 acres of farm land.

Next Meeting: The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on the third Tuesday on *April 20, 2010*, 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Concluded: Karen Cadorette motioned to end the meeting and Rosemarie Zengen seconded, all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary