

Town of Red Hook
Tree Preservation Commission
Minutes: August 16, 2011

Attendance: Chairperson Nancy Guski, Rosemarie Zengen, Marcy Appell, Karen Cadorette and Linda Keeling, secretary

Absent: Eleanor Friery

Guest: Micki Strawinski, Liaison (arrived 7:33)

Location: Town Hall, Red Hook

Purpose: Regular monthly meeting of the Commission is 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 as a quorum was met. She handed out the agenda.

Minutes: The minutes from June 21, 2011 were reviewed and corrected with some minor revisions and deletions.

MOTION: Marcy Appell motioned to accept the minutes as corrected and Rosemarie Zengen seconded. All agreed.

Note Sally's last name was misspelled, it should be Mazzarella.

Discussions: Chairperson Guski noted that she has an Emerald Ash Borer CD that she got from the recent Conference. It would be appropriate to be shown on PANDA.

1. Hardscrabble Day: Rosemarie Zengen explained that the Ice Cream Social is tentatively scheduled on September 24 from 1 to 4 pm with a parade at 11 am and speakers afterwards. We plan to have a band, tree display and plant sale, tree stamp and car show. Plans are still developing. No seedlings will be ordered due to a lack of finances in our budget. Discussion focused on a barrier, stamping the hand and raffling a tree. Discussion also focused on the tree lithographs with the original sold for \$35 and the print at \$20 with each one framed as an example. One plant will be dedicated for the raffle and one for the auction. We will promote planting a tree in your name. Assemblyman Marcus Molinaro has agreed to emcee the auction.

John Kuhn, consultant to the St. Margaret's Committee, is fine with the trees as horticulturist Amy Parella of Bard College did a tree plan. He is taking down unhealthy trees at St. Margaret's Home. The dedicated trees might not be planted this fall but rather in the spring during Arbor Day. Nancy wants the event well planned before planted in the ground. Rosemarie Zengen stressed the barrier planting between Hardscrabble Center and St. Margaret's Home. Nancy noted there will be 8 more trees, as part of the grant, planted in this location.

Linda Keeling inquired as to arborist James Cadorette's inventory if it included recommendations on what to plant. Nancy said it was mostly what to remove. Nancy will consult with Angelo Schembari about tree recommendations. She referenced the map of the St. Margaret's Home property which she handed out.

MOTION: Rosemarie Zengen motioned that two trees be designated for Hardscrabble Day with one for Marcy Appell for her great civic responsibility, Karen Cadorette seconded, all in favor.

MOTION: Rosemarie Zengen motioned to designate a tree for the Trezza as the former town attorney at the Red Church, Karen Cadorette seconded, all agreed.

Tickets for the Hardscrabble Day will be sold prior to the event. Prices will be \$10, \$5 for seniors (over 65 and 13-18 yrs.) and children 12 and under free accompanied by a paying adult. Large families will not be charged more than \$25.

Micki noted the CAC will be hosting an Electronics Exchange as part of the 10% Challenge. Hopefully, Bard will provide a shuttle to the Hardscrabble Center for the students to participate.

There will be two tables that must be manned. Nancy will have a table of information and tree cookies with the plants and another table for the auction items. Rosemarie suggested dinner with Mayor Blundell, etc.

Rosemarie will get two signs made and will use picnic left-over table coverings from her last event. The Village Police will use the police tape to mark off the area near the house. The sub-committee is Rosemarie Zengen, Linda Keeling and Marcy Appell. We will get healthy granola bars from Hannaford. Nancy suggested apples and cider as they are a tree product. Rosemarie had to leave early (8:05).

2. ReLeaf Conference Report: There were about 130 people that attended. Region 3, our area, hosted it. Nancy brought a poster board display, ordinance, and tree manual. Nancy said the 50 tree cookies (necklaces with decorated tree slices) she brought went like hot cakes for the adults. Nancy was reflective of her growing curve over the last four years. She focused on one of the courses she attended, "Trees and Water Quality". She was very impressed by Bram Gunther's presentation. He proposes greenescapes, gardens and large tree pits to absorb more rain. The "Ordinances with Teeth" focused on a czar approach versus educating people. She attended the Emerald Ash Borer course. The ash trees are 7% of the forest. It is the moving of firewood that is spreading the infestations. The "Planning for Trees in Subdivisions" provided an overview of what the Planning Board should consider: what trees should be selected (saved), no structural problems, no doomed trees, no invasive trees, no short-lived trees (birch, poplar), diversity (hornbeam, shagbark hickory, swamp white oak, value groups of trees, preserve tree and soil, consider LCR: live crown ratio (the crown of the tree in order to save it). Micki suggested that a presentation could be made to the Town Board at their meeting. Nancy said it was a great conference and made additional personal contacts. Nancy will attend a wrap-up meeting about the Conference on what worked and what needs improvement. She and Karen Cadorette agreed it was a different approach this year. Nancy felt it did not attract the number of Planners that they were trying to get. July is a difficult time of the year and there are other competing activities. Our people were doing an infrastructure tour this year.

3. Urban Forestry Grant: We were awarded the grant and we received the highest points for scoring 131/140. This will provide for an inventory consultant for about \$5,000 and 32 tree plantings for the rest of the grant. Nancy complimented all that helped for the letters of support, narrative written by grant writer Linda Keeling and professionalized final presentation by Ed Saad.

4. Central Hudson Update: A letter was to be sent to Central Hudson comparing their literature to National Grid's literature. National Grid's officer is the head of the Urban Forestry Council. Marcy Appell said her daughter lives in National Grid's area and if they do their laundry on the weekend they give a 30% discount. They both do directional pruning (joining branches where they join another branch at the trunk of the tree). This technique is supposed to provide a more natural appearance and help reduce disease infestation. Nancy feels that the literature and what actual occurs are not aligned with Central Hudson. National Grid went into more depth with pictures and detailed narrative.

She will write a letter as people are upset with Lewis' Tree Service. Both companies will not remove the debris from their cuttings. Chippers are being used. Micki noted that TJ at the Town's Recycling Center has plenty of mulch for the townspeople to use. Linda Keeling mentioned that the Sieverdings were upset that Central Hudson cut down a large sycamore tree and just left the whole tree. Nancy doesn't want to be confrontational but she wants to understand their position and the public's observations. It was suggested to take pictures of these incidents. The group felt the real fault lies with the contractor, Lewis' and they should know how the community feels about their work.

Linda Keeling noted that an article in the newspaper said that the Central Hudson Board supports hydro fracking so she wrote an email to the Board suggesting they not support this for its environmental damages to the ground water system. She also suggested that maybe Central Hudson might purchase some trees to improve their image in our community. Nancy thought that was a good suggestion.

Other Business: Micki apologized for not congratulating the group for the grant at the last meeting of the Town Board. Nancy gave credit to CAC chair Brenda Cagle for the Ordinance so that Nancy could step in and adopt the Village Green's work into our efforts. Marcy asked Micki about the Conservation Preservation Law. Micki said it needs to be tweaked. She indicated that if Winnakee would have a set fee they could maintain the easements throughout the town.

Adjournment: *Motion: Karen Cadorette motioned to adjourn the meeting and Marcy Appell seconded, all agreed.*

Concluded: The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 20, 2011.**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary, Approved 9-20-11