

Town of Red Hook  
Tree Preservation Commission  
**Minutes: January 17, 2012**

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

**Absent:** None

**Guest:** Brenda Cagle, Town Council Liaison and Joe Eraca

**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: 04 pm. There was a quorum. Chairman Nancy Guski introduced Brenda Cagle as the new town councilperson and liaison to the Tree Commission.

**Minutes:** The draft minutes from November 15, 2011, were read and discussed. No corrections were made.

**MOTION:** *Marcy Appell motioned to accept the minutes from November 15<sup>th</sup> as is and Rosemarie Zengen seconded. All agreed.*

**Correspondence:** Letter from Superintendent of Highways

**Presentation:** Brenda Cagle gave a talk aided by her computer program on How to Do a Tree Inventory. Everyone was pleased to have her input as she has done this with the Village Green group and Cornell students.

**Old Business:**

**1. Hardscrabble Day Ice Cream Social Pictures:** Eleanor will turn over the pictures she took and Linda sent copies of her photos previously to Nancy.

**2. Trees Removes at Town Hall:** The callery pear trees were removed as they are a brittle tree, had damage from the last storm (Irene) and were in the overhead wires. New plantings have to be 25 ft. from the center of the road. Chairman Nancy Guski read the Ordinance. Rosemarie Zengen felt the Tree Commission should be contacted before trees are taken down. Our Town Ordinance provides for cooperation among Town Committees. It also provides for a \$500 fine if a tree in the right of way is removed without prior permission. Nancy felt the front of town hall is overplanted. There will be some future changes to the front: the sign realignment.

**3. Tree City and Growth Award:** Chairman Nancy Guski applied for the Tree City recertification For the Growth Award ten points were needed but she had 24 points. We should get a decal. The Tree City Awards Event is March 29<sup>th</sup>. Nancy thanked Rosemarie Zengen again for all her past social events efforts as well as Eleanor Friery's work with the school district. It made the application narrative process easy.

**4. Tree Inventory Scheduled for Spring:** Chairman Nancy Guski explained that the grant provides about \$5,000 for inventorying the trees and \$3,000 for purchasing trees. The SWAT team (Hudson Valley Specialized Weekly Arboreal Team) had been doing inventories but the Cornell Extension budget was greatly reduced.

Brenda Cagle explained that the suggested goal is to cover 12 street miles or 1000 trees. The software is free, called "I Tree". The goal is to prioritize tree management, the first step in creating a Management Plan.

Nancy Guski questioned about planting trees in private areas. It was felt that the trees can do better further from the salt and soil compaction. Linda Keeling noted that the Village Green Tree Committee has planted on private property with the consent of the owner. This is an area of concern that the survey will help clarify in the group's decision making.

Brenda explained in Coldspring, 555 sites and 437 trees were identified and 118 planting sites recommended. There should only be 5-10% of any one species. In their case, there was 40% Norway maples with 79% tree plantings. It was recommended not to refer trees as "hazardous" as it creates a liability problem for the municipality. The label recommendation is for "an arborist consult".

The tree inventory process involves assigning a unique identification, longitude and latitude on a map. One tree genus was 20%. The diameter measurements refer to the age of the forest. There were 65% good wood, 1% dying wood and half of the trees needed no intervention, 32% needed routine pruning, involving 44 trees. The idea is to have a larger amount of younger trees planted rather than older ones. Aside from a structural inventory an environmental replacement value would be \$1.8 million, in this case.

The completion of an Inventory for the Management Plan can provide a future grant for maintenance. The next step would be to inventory 20% every year through the town budget. It was noted that the Town Highway spends about \$40,000 per year on tree care.

Trees save energy through reduced air conditioning, enhance the aesthetics, reduce stormwater run-off and sequester carbon dioxide. Ideally, 20% of the trees should be done until 100% is reached. The inventory will need yearly updating.

It was felt that we should use local resources to accomplish the inventory.

**5. ReLeaf Event, Friday, March 9, 2012, 9-2:30 pm:** Nancy indicated this is a workshop and bus tour. She also met the Dutchess County Fair Forester regarding the Joshua Tree Forestry in Pine Plains. Andy Pleninger is the VP Urban Forester, 2553 Creek Rd., Palmyra, NY 14522 (585-415-8720) [www.urbanforestryllc.com](http://www.urbanforestryllc.com)

We will need detailed specifications in order to spend the \$5,000 allotted from the grant. It doesn't have to go out to bid.

**New Business:**

1. Rosemarie Zengen addressed the Agricultural and Open Space Committee regarding the promotion of her new Red Hook Farmer's Quarterly to be offered free to the public through advertising sponsorships. It will feature a farmer and their farm on the front cover. The Spring publication will include articles like composting, gardens, tractor operation. She would like Nancy to write an article perhaps on the Tree Inventory; she agreed to do it. The AOSC has given their endorsement. At a special event for the County Executive's State of the County address in March, a prototype will be on display. Rosemarie would like the endorsement of the Tree Commission.

**MOTION:** *Marcy Appell motioned that the Tree Commission endorses the publication, Karen Cadorette seconded, all agreed.*

**2. F&M Former Printed Poster:** Rosemarie Zengen indicated that to date F&M has not sent a bill for the large and small poster they printed for the Ice Cream Social. She is presuming it was a donation.

**3. Website for Tree Commission:** Rosemarie Zengen indicated that Dick Wambach is the town's IT person. He worked on the St. Margaret's page link and a Facebook Page. She encouraged this group to do the same.

**4. Tree Planting:** Nancy will be ordering seedlings and trees for planting around town.

**Adjournment:** *Marcy Appell motion to adjourn the meeting, Rosemarie Zengen seconded, all agreed.*

**Concluded:** The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012, 7:00 pm, town hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary