

Town of Red Hook

Tree Preservation Commission

Minutes: February 21, 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

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. There was a quorum.

Minutes: The draft minutes from January 17, 2012 were discussed and corrected:

1. spelling of “callery” pear; 2. #3 inserts: “Tree City” before recertification. ”For the Growth Award”; 3. #4, eliminate Master Gardner’s, add “ly” to great, eliminate reference to graduate students sentence and “public trees” sentence; 4. #5. Eliminate contacted and insert met.

MOTION: *Marcy Appell motioned to accept the minutes from January 17, 2012 with the above corrections, Karen Cadorette seconded. All agreed.*

Correspondence: None

Old Business:

1. Town Webpage for Tree Commission: Chairperson Nancy Guski contacted Sue McCann and learned that we do have a page but it has not been updated in about three years. Nancy asked Linda Keeling to update the page for this group to include upcoming dates.

2. Tree City Luncheon: This event is scheduled for March 29th from 10 am -2:30 pm in Albany.

3. Seedling and Sapling Order: The seedling order is due March 16th for the Arbor Day event. Nancy will spend about \$150. She suggested white spruce, thornless honey locust, white flowering dogwood, butterfly bush and silky dogwood. Rosemarie Zengen felt it was a good idea to continue with this give-away program as it promotes good will in the community. She suggested getting fewer varieties as it is confusing for the public.

Eleanor Friery referenced the school plantings. Nancy told Eleanor that the left-overs from last year were planted at the Wetlands Walk trail. Eleanor indicated there are not many spots left at the school to plant but 10 would be doable. She will order a packet of 30 to include sand cherry

and dogwood to be planted tentatively on April 26th at the school. The extras will be tended by Linda Keeling.

4. Arbor Day: Nancy Guski noted that Earth Day is actually April 22 but we will celebrate it on Saturday, April 28th. Rosemarie Zengen was excited about this event again. She will orchestrate the events at the Town Hall. There will be free seedlings, an information table, Farmer's market and a Band.

The Village Green will do two plantings. There will be a joint luncheon again for the helpers.

Brenda Cagle mentioned the "Tour de Red Hook" on April 29th 1-3 pm. It will start at the Rec Park and go to Bard. Brenda is hoping the Firehouse will have a little celebration of their solar panels installation.

5. School Activities: Eleanor wrote her preliminary letter for all to review before it goes to the school. Due to a possible change in school curriculum, the Kindergarten teachers might want the reading of the four books rather than the first grade. Thursday, April 19th will be the pick-up of the posters for the contest. On Tuesday, April 24th, some from the Commission will meet at Eleanor's house for lunch and selection of the winners. Rosemarie Zengen suggested displaying the winning posters in merchant windows. The group will discuss that further as the time approaches as it will entail about 15 winning posters. Nancy reminded Eleanor to put in a voucher for the cost of the books.

Rosemarie Zengen asked if there is a budget for the Earth Day/ Arbor Day events as it entails printing posters and serving lunch. Nancy Guski will talk with the Town's bookkeeper about our budget. Nancy encouraged Rosemarie to start planning the event.

Eleanor noted that she got the name of Jeffrey Urban from Brenda Cagle. He likes working with the middle school and high school students. He has created an activity booklet. All felt we have involved the middle school children with Mary Pat Budd's involvement and it would be good to involve the high school students. Nancy Guski will contact Jeffrey Urban.

6. Project Learning Tree: Eleanor Friery looked into this but workshops are not available locally. Linda Keeling asked if either she or Nancy had an opportunity to look at all the grants she sent them. Nancy didn't have the time to review them but Eleanor looked at them.

7. Proclamations: Rosemarie Zengen asked if we were going to have them again from Supervisor Crane and Legislator Ben Traudt as they are free. Nancy will follow-up on it.

8. Tree Inventory: Chairperson Nancy Guski distributed a two page sheet regarding the grant related tree inventory. According to the Red Hook Open Space Plan 40% of Red Hook is forested. She indicated that the Tree Commission probably won't be able to periodically update our inventory with a budget of \$1000. So she wants to cover as much as we can with the grant. After completing this official document, we can develop a Forestry Management Plan. As the Village of Red Hook has completed an inventory, she would like to spread out from the Village borders to cover the following roads: College Park (1 mile), Linden Acres (2.5 miles), Forest Park (2 miles), Meadow Drive entrance, Jefferson Road (1 mile), Grandmour (1 mile), the Town Recreation Park and St. Margaret's (the Rec Park Extension is not considered), outlying non-

development roadways: Guski Road (1.5 miles), Mill Road (1 mile), Pitcher Lane (1.5 miles), Whaleback and Rockefeller Lane (1.5 miles)

The inventory will cover: tree species distribution, check ash numbers, tree health and maintenance, planting sites, master tree list and electronic copy of the inventory.

Nancy thanked Karen Cadorette for Angelo Schembari's involvement with Nancy in developing a plan.. She also met with Brenda as she has gone through this before. Angelo felt it was good to define to the public why we are doing the inventory. Nancy described the inventory like getting a base line health exam so one can assess one's overall health. This inventory will give an overview of the health of the town's forested areas and will provide an official document.

Brenda suggested to Nancy to be concerned about the three main forested areas. It was unknown if they are privately owned or fall within conservation easements. Since there is a large tree canopy in Red Hook that may not be a big consideration. Nancy reread the Centers and Greenspace Plan and it suggests saving what we already have and protecting the resources. Brenda clarified that the coverage doesn't count trees in people's yards.

The idea is to build a data base for the Management Plan. We should also use the map overlays. Brenda mentioned the Big Tree Registry: notable trees in the community. This maybe something that could be put in the inventory.

Nancy and her husband drove around looking at the trees. They noticed that the College Park area is in sad shape as older trees have not been cared for properly. Linden Acres has older trees, too, but they are in a bit better condition. There were a few trees identified that might need a consult. In Forest Park some possible planting sites were identified, a few trees needed attention. Nancy felt Meadow (off of Trow Bld.) could use a few trees to create an entrance tree line. Then she went to Jefferson Rd. 9 (near the movie theatre) there could be some planting sites as it didn't need maintenance. All agreed that Old Farm Rd. is very barren. It was felt that Ruge's property goes deep off of Rt. 9 towards Old Farm Rd. which is a contributing factor to the openness. Grandmour has newer trees. Karen stated that there are few trees that fall within the 25 ft. zone from the center of the road that we could impact.

Marcy Appell asked how we handle it if a person doesn't want a tree on their property as she has noticed these houses are well established from years ago. Nancy said the planting sites will be identified and then the property owners will be asked.

Nancy talked with John Kuhn and he is very happy to have the Parks inventoried. There might be a consult. The goal is for safety with trimmed branches where people gather and species diversity. Although the porch will be started at St. Margaret's soon, a white oak will be planted in honor of Marcy Appell. Linda Keeling noted that when digging on National Historic properties an archaeologist should be brought in to oversee the hole. She suggested calling Chris Lindner, Bard College's archaeologist. Nancy will contact him.

Nancy showed the group a map of St. Margaret's. She suggested some white spruce as a border to the Hannaford property. There is also a suggestion for a walking trail. This would have to be approved by the St. Margaret's Committee. Nancy will get 6 copies for Rosemarie to distribute to that group.

Linda Keeling asked if the trail will be handicapped accessible. Nancy indicated that it would be. Linda noted that the town has said previously that certain places were accessible when in reality they were not. Rosemarie Zengen asked what area was not accessible. Linda indicated the Wetlands Walk at the Rec Park as the soft surface is not appropriate for wheelchair use.

Nancy continued pointing out that Mill Rd. has some planting sites. Pitcher Lane is not a deeded road. Marcy explained how it works for development areas whereby the developer deeds the property to the town. Rockefeller Lane has had some oak trees planted but there might be more spots available. All agreed that we will have to talk to the owners of the property before trees can be planted. Brenda felt the town is lacking trees in the public right-of-way generally.

DEC has a maintenance grant but you must have an Inventory and Management Plan done.

Nancy is keeping track of the hours from volunteers. So far she has 55 hours logged in for the grant. Nancy also contacted the County. They will send her information about the regulations for planting trees.

New Business:

1. Red Hook Farmer's Quarterly: Rosemarie Zengen said Nancy wrote an article for the new brochure. She showed the prototype and indicated that Northwind Farms will be the featured farm on the front cover. There will be a story about the fire at the Harrison farm and the veterinarian who helped save the animals. It's been endorsed by several groups and will be distributed at local businesses and through Dutchess County Tourism.

2. Amy Parella: She worked on the designs for St. Margaret's. Brenda has asked her to work on the Memorial Park design. Amy worked on Bard's Historic Trees and produced a lovely brochure. Brenda is hoping Amy will give a tour for the Town's Bicentennial Celebration this year and perhaps incorporate historic trees of Red Hook.

3. Village Green: They got a \$13,600 grant for benches. The Town Trails Committee also wants to install some benches but they don't have funding for it. Everyone was pleased to hear about this project as it will be very helpful for the senior citizens and college students walking the roadways.

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

Concluded: The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 20, 2012, 7:00 pm, town hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary

Approved 4/10/12