

Town of Red Hook

**Tree Preservation Commission**

**Minutes: January 22, 2014**

**Attendance:** Chairperson Nancy Guski, Karen Cadorette, Eleanor Friery, Brenda Cagle Town Council Liaison and Linda Keeling, secretary

**Absent:** Rosemarie Zengen and Marcy Appell (Marcy attended the town board meeting afterwards as well as the others in attendance.)

**Guest:** None

**Location:** Red Hook Town Hall

**Purpose:** Regular monthly meeting of the Commission is held on the third Tuesday of every month at the Town Hall.

Note: The regular day meeting was canceled due to extreme cold and wind. It was held an hour before the town board's meeting. Nancy was to make a special presentation regarding the Forest Management Plan and was to be filmed by PANDA.

**Call to Order:** *Chairperson Nancy Guski* called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm. She sent the agenda via email as well as an updated attachment of the Draft Forest Management Plan (FMP).

**Minutes:** There was a quorum. There was no meeting in December.

Nancy requested two changes: "didn't receive them" and remove "after conferring with trustee Brent Kovalchik".

**Motion:** *Eleanor Friery* motioned to accept the Nov. 19, 2013 minutes as amended, *Karen Cadorette* seconded and all agreed.

**Agenda Items:** Call to Order, Minutes, Correspondence (Jen Melitski, Jim Kisker (Schichtel's), St. John's Church, Barrytown Isabel Livingston, FMP Presentation, Tree City Growth Award, Spring Planting and Arbor Day

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. Correspondence:**

a. *Isabel Livingston*, St. John's Church thank you letter read to the group by Chairman Guski. Isabel and her twin sons are pictured in the FMP booklet. They dug the holes themselves. Nancy let her know so they could see it.

b. *Jen Melitski*, Red Hook Pool Board of Directors. They would still like trees planted. Some discussion focused on the fact that the pool is privately owned. A suggestion was made to find a location on the north side closest to the Rec Park property. Brenda Cagle noted that Kevin Storrs, on the pool board, is involved with the future new construction of the 1960's pool. The Commission doesn't want to plant where there may be construction going on. *Karen Cadorette* suggested looking at the pool's website. Nancy will get in

contact with Jen as they recently had their board meeting. The types of trees and possible locations will be discussed with her.

c. *Schichtel's* sent the available tree list for 2014. They would like our list as soon as February. We now have to pay for shipping which can be as much as the cost of one mature tree.

**2. FMP Presentation:** *Chairman Nancy Guski* presented the final document to the group. Everyone was impressed with the look and quality overall. She will emphasize the process and the fact that it is “locally grown”, including the photos, and did not rely on or pay for any consultants. It is a simple guide for the Commission and a working document, hopefully used by town groups and the public. *Linda Keeling* suggested it be entered into a statewide contest. The booklet will be posted on the town’s website and a hard copy held by the town clerk. Again, the group was very thankful to *Ted Saad* for providing many hours assisting with the final technical design. It definitely has a professional look to it. Nancy noted that we want to have a great trees program and timber cutting and harvesting addressed in more detail in the future. The booklet was printed and bound locally and cost just \$27.

*Brenda Cagle* wants to further review the Tree Ordinance and the guidelines especially as it might apply to the Planning Board when reviewing a site plan or subdivision. The list of trees is particularly helpful for everyone.

There was additional discussion on “significant” and size of trees before removing and when a permit might be needed. *Nancy Guski* felt that some of the issue was addressed under “Trees under Construction”. *Eleanor Friery* felt the tree list gives a lot of pertinent information. In addition to Cornell’s list National Grid also has a nice list to consider. *Linda Keeling* suggested that all tree lists be dated especially when upgraded like maps should be done.

**3. Applied for Tree Growth Award:** *Chairman Guski* prepared and submitted the paperwork. Although we only needed 10 points we had 35. She thanked *Eleanor Friery* for participating with the Bio Blitz at the school as that added to the point count.

**4. Planning Board Comments:** *Chairman Nancy Guski* had submitted comments to the Planning Board in regards to the potential construction of the Feller-Newmark Road, Preserve at Lakes Kill proposal. She read a copy of the letter sent. She had made three site visits. Nancy emphasized the amount of trees at the bend and their water take-up capacity preventing erosion and flooding into the roadway and the affect on the remaining trees. Removal of the trees will impact the environment negatively as well as aesthetically.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Spring Planting:** The pool issue will be finalized. The area in front of the town hall needs a replacement. The Rec Park has had two white oaks die in the same location so a new spot needs to be located. Guski Road needs a new linden tree. *Linda Keeling* suggested testing the former and new sites’ soil. It could be impacted by salt loading from the roads. *Chairman Guski* thought it was a good suggestion and it is part of the FMP guidelines.

**2. Arbor Day, April 26<sup>th</sup>:** Discussion focused on the Rec Park versus the town hall location. Everyone agreed that the town hall is more visible and will need less advertising to draw families. Everyone felt the speakers should be limited to Supervisor Sue Crane and newly elected County Legislator Micki Strawinski. Everyone agreed short speeches were desirable. Hopefully, children’s groups can get involved with the educational fun aspects like building weather sticks or matching light boxes and maybe some other fun games involving tree products.

**3. Other:** *Brenda Cagle* mentioned that the Planning Board suggested a site plan property owner contact Stephen Yarbeck, landscape architect from Saugerties, in regards to restoring their treed property.

*Karen Cadorette* noted that Rhinebeck has a special 3 mile protected stretch along the Hudson River.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion:** *Eleanor Friery* motioned to adjourn the meeting, *Karen Cadorette* seconded and all agreed. *Chairman Guski* adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.

Everyone followed Nancy to the town board meeting in support of her presentation of the final Forest Management Plan booklet.

**Next Meeting:**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary

Approved 2/25/14