

DRAFT

Town of Red Hook

Tree Preservation Commission

Minutes: January 20, 2015

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

Absent: Eleanor Friery and Marcy Appell (Still need one member, Doug Traudt didn't show up)

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.

Call to Order: NOTE: There was no meeting in December.

Chairperson Nancy Guski called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm. She handed out an agenda: Grant Update, Tree City, ReLeaf Meeting and Connectivity Project, Pruning on Pitcher Lane, General Plan for the Year, Hoffman Property Tree Plan, and New Business.

Minutes: There was NOT a quorum. There was one correction to the minutes of November 18, 2014. Page 2: item 1: last line. It should read the town "*applied for*" a Community Block grant. As there was not a quorum, it could not be voted on.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Grant Update: *Chairman Nancy Guski* sent in her 3rd revised work for the grant's final submission to Debbie Gorki from DEC. George Provost will need to check the sites.

2. Tree City: George Provost called and the Chairman and she sent in the additional information at George's urging.

3. December ReLeaf Meeting: The Chairman couldn't make the December meeting but went to the January meeting with Meg Crawford of Rhinebeck's Tree Commission. Progress is being made on the BROW. The Workshop pages consisted of 4 stakeholder meetings. *Brenda Cagle* noted that Red Hook was selected as a model town to test the Cornell model having to do with habitat connectivity. Two planning firms were involved one from White Plains and our own Greenplan. The White Plains planners won the proposal. The purpose was to test Cornell's mapping for local mapping of forested areas in order to predict habitat connectivity. Red Hook has a strong corridor in the north running west to east. Attendance at the stakeholder meetings included: Nancy Guski from Trees, Charlie Lang from Planning, Laurie Husted from the CAC, Brent Kovalchik from the Village, and Michele Greig of Tivoli who came up with her own list. Chairman Nancy Guski emphasized how we should maintain the three large forested areas from work completed in 1999. This ties in with the habitat work we all did with Hudsonia. Brenda Cagle will get a copy of the report. Brenda noted that towns can identify critical environmental areas. Red

Hook utilizes many land use tools and the idea was to consider what other towns could do if they weren't as comprehensive as Red Hook. Linda Keeling asked if there was a correlation to the land issues to tax assessment and how the owners could use their land. Brenda and Nancy thought the issues might be addressed in the zoning code.

4. Pruning on Pitcher Lane: Chairman Guski said it was Rockefeller not Pitcher Lane. *Linda Keeling* mentioned that she talked with Cathy Michaels at the Garden Club. George (Hop) Michaels offered to trim the oak trees on Rockefeller Lane as they are hanging low for walkers. He would need the brush picked up separately. Nancy Guski will email them. Perhaps they might want to join. Karen Cadorette will take a ride down that road to see what trees the Michaels referred to.

5. General Plan for the year: The Rec Park needs pruning and trees planted. We have \$1500 in our budget plus donation money. *Chairman Nancy Guski* said she normally spends about \$600 per year on trees. *Chairman Nancy Guski* mentioned the 6 trees at the park: elm, prairie fire cherry trees were disappointing. It needs root feeding which Karen Cadorette will orchestrate. The blue spruce has a disease problem and might do better with a watering schedule. Brenda Cagle noted they lost a couple at Abraham's Park a year or two ago.

New planting suggested for Trow Blvd. using our Forestry Management Guide Inventory.

Eleanor Friery will continue the school outreach program and bio blitz.

6. Kirchoff Development, TND, Hoffman Property: *Chairman Guski* explained the plan by the architect. We felt the London Plane is not salt tolerant. There were many large trees, suggested some smaller trees, no oaks, red maples sensitive. Northern red oaks are somewhat salt tolerant. *Chairman Guski* will send a letter to the Planning Board about comments and recommendations for their consideration of the tree planting plan proposed by the developer's landscape architect. There was some discussion about the County controlled water system in that area. Some discussion focused on Rt. 9G and Forest Park. It was noted that the new cleaners has done a nice job with landscaping.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Hardscrabble Day: *Linda Keeling* asked if the Tree Commission would like to have the Garden Club near them for Hardscrabble Day. Everyone was excited to have them participate near us and felt it would complement what we do for the public.

Adjournment:

Chairman Guski adjourned the meeting at 5:30 pm.

Next Meeting: We will meet on Tuesday, February 17, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary