

**Town of Red Hook**  
**Tree Preservation Commission**  
**Minutes: March 22, 2016**  
**Approved April 19, 2016**

**Attendance:** Chairman Cathy Michael, Karen Cadorette, Eleanor Friery, Dave Grover, Doug Traudt, Hop Michael, Sarah Imboden, Town Council Liaison and Linda Keeling, secretary

**Absent:** None

**Guest:** Brent Kovalchik, Village Green liaison

**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:**

*Chairperson Cathy Michael* called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. She handed out an agenda.

Quote of the month: “The clearest way into the universe is through a forest wilderness.” John Muir

**Minutes:** There was a quorum.

Minor corrections: page 1: add “knew I” after If of the quote of the month. Page 2: item 6 last sentence eliminate extra “to”. Item 7: period after DEC and capitalize “Many”.

**Motion:** *Eleanor Friery* motioned to accept the February 16, 2016 minutes as amended, *Hop Michael* seconded, all agreed.

**Introduction:** *Sarah Imboden* was introduced to the membership as our liaison from the town board. Everyone introduced themselves. Sarah might have some conflicts with times but she will try to make the meetings when she can.

*Brent Kavalchik* was also introduced as the liaison from Village Green.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Arbor Day Celebration, Apr. 30<sup>th</sup>:** *Chairman Cathy Michael* contacted Town Clerk Sue McCann about putting the celebration on the town calendar. She received an email from Region 3 DEC forester, George Profous, there are no new materials. He will drop off the metal sign at the town hall.

The Library will be present to make recycled birdhouses at town hall. Dawn Jardine is the contact person. There was some concern as to whether or not they would need tables. Most of the tables at town hall are needed for the luncheon.

*Cathy* contacted Brent Kovalchik of the Village Green about having a liaison to/from the Village Green. Dave Pearson is the Village Green Chairman. A volunteer is needed for their meeting which is Wed. March 23, 6:30 pm., village hall. *Cathy* will go this time but she can't on future Wednesdays as she has a regular commitment.

*Nancy Guski* will make a basket to raffle.

*Cathy* has the banner.

Tree necklaces will be organized. *Doug Traudt* will cut branches and punch holes for 300 using cedar and ash. *Cathy, Hop, Eleanor and Linda* will make a date to string and decorate them.

*Eleanor Friery* prepared a letter to the classroom teachers at Mill Road for children in K-2 and 3-5 to participate in the annual poster contest. Three students from each grade level will receive a prize book about trees. She has made contact with the Saratoga Tree Nursery about the free seedlings for the Nature Trail. As the students were off that week and she needed a principal's signature, she had school administrator Bruce Martin sign the paperwork for the free seedlings. Posters are due Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. On April 26<sup>th</sup>, members will judge the posters at *Eleanor's* house for lunch at noon. On April 29<sup>th</sup>, the winners will be announced. They will be on display at the town hall for two weeks then returned to the students. First grade classes read and discuss four books about trees to qualify the class to have a Nature Trail lesson and native tree or bush planted in their honor. Third grade classes will have Trail walks and tree lessons. She will do classes from April 22<sup>nd</sup> to May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

*Eleanor* will try to get some funds from the Botstein Fund which is intended for the upkeep of the Nature Trail so she can pay for tractor work to clear weeds and poison ivy reduction. Perry Sheldon is in charge of the funds.

*Doug Traudt* indicated that Cody Hay and/or Josh Riddinger will demonstrate tree climbing gear and possible use the tree at the library near the sidewalk. He will ask Cory if he is interested in being a new member. He is studying to be a forester. Everyone agreed he would be a welcomed addition.

*Linda Keeling* will pick up the tree seedlings in Millbrook at the Cooperative Extension on Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> and prepare them for distribution on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**2. Commemorative Trees:** The Gordy Merghendahl at the Rec Park was removed by personnel as it was leaning badly. *Cathy* and *Hop* reported that only the mulch circle was there near the pool. *Hop* noted it was an over planted area and needs pruning. *Linda Keeling* informed *Hop* that the separate Pool group has control over the acre. A tree replacement could possibly be accomplished at the St. Margaret's Home. Chairman *Cathy Michael* will contact *John Kuhn*.

*Karen Cadorette* said she has the updated list of 100 trees. The Village is ordering trees and *Karen* noted there are so few trees available from the nursery. She noted that tree nurseries did not plant for two years after the economic down turn of 2008 so there is a shortage of the 1.5 to 2.5 inch trees.

**3. Tree City Awards Luncheon Event March 30<sup>th</sup>:** The following are signed up to attend the free luncheon celebration at the Hilton in Albany: *Cathy and Hop Michael, Linda Keeling and Dave Grover*. *Hop* will drive and pick up members. *Brent Kovalchik* and *Brenda Cagle* are going, too.

*Linda Keeling* suggested a commemorative tree to honor Betty Mae Van Parys who recently passed away. There could also be a dedication at St. Margaret's Home or near the Highway building with the other commemorative trees. All thought it to be a good idea. Theresa Burke will be contacted by the chairman.

**4. Archives:** *Cathy Michael* has the materials at her house. She will arrange a meeting with *Linda Keeling* to sort through the materials at a future date.

**5. Pruning:** The group agreed, rather than planting trees, we would do pruning and create a master list of previously planted trees. The condition of trees would be noted as the past year's weather conditions negatively affected many species.

*Dave Grover* wanted to know what the process is if a homeowner requests a tree. If it is a likeable spot, a tree could be recommended by the Tree Commission.

*Karen Cadorette* said we haven't ventured far out on Rt. 199 East gateway. She felt the car wash area could use some trees. *Linda Keeling* suggested talking to the Baright's as they had accepted two trees for their apartment building in the Village of Red Hook.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Central Hudson Tree Trimming:** There have been past and present complaints about Central Hudson's contractor's method of tree trimming and their related policies. *Sarah Imboden* suggested contacting several surrounding towns to write Central Hudson about the problem. Members would like to see Central Hudson at the Tree City luncheon in the future. Perhaps we can make progress with the new president, Mike Mosher, who is from Red Hook.

**2. North Gateway Clean up and Planting:** *Hop Michael* has been coordinating getting the truck stop and the triangle on Old Post Rt. 9 cleaned up and ready for some plantings. He contacted several authorities involved. *Linda Keeling* suggested planting bulbs at the narrow part.

**3. Emailed Nancy Guski Regarding Her Resignation:** *Nancy Guski* decided to formally resign but will volunteer participate when she can. She will remain on the email list as "ex officio".

*Eleanor Friery* suggested planting a commemorative tree for Nancy Guski. Everyone thought it was a good idea.

## **Adjournment:**

**Motion:** *Karen Cadorette* motioned to adjourn the meeting, and *Eleanor Friery* seconded and all agreed.

*Chairman Cathy Michael* adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

**Next Meeting:** We will meet on **Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 7:00 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary