

Town of Red Hook

Tree Preservation Commission

Special Meeting Report: Region 3 NY ReLeaf

Thursday, April 7, 2016

Attendance: 11 members: Nancy of Nyack, James and Meg of Rhinebeck, Cathy and Linda of Red Hook, Megan of NY Heartwoods of Kingston, Ginny of Poughkeepsie, Karen of ReLeaf, Mary K. of D.E.C., Marcy of Nyack and George Profus of D.E.C.

Location: Morgan Room, Bellefield in Hyde Park (Administrative offices for the National Archives).

Meeting Start: Karen opened the meeting at 10:00 am. Everyone was introduced to each other.

OLD BUSINESS

1. BROW (Beyond the Right of Way): It was suggested that municipalities incorporate within their ordinances the specific details relating to planting in adjacent locations along roadways. Mary K. will try to pull together a list of ordinance examples.

2. Workshop Plans: Discussion focused on the types of tree related activities that could be implemented to instruct members and municipal staff.

3. Tree / Sidewalk Code: George promoted his “Complete Streets” program. This is a plan for the filling-in of trees to complete a canopy. He emphasized simplicity for acceptance and promoted the Energy Tree Give Away and the use of the “I-tree design” program. George gave Cathy two packets of information.

4. DEC Grant Update: Mary K. explained the changes to submitting a grant that will require submission electronically using the Grants Gateway website. She explained that this is a means of streamlining the process for efficiency. She spoke about the various submission parts and gave examples. There is \$1.3 million available and another \$1 million coming. There will be one RFP for each part. The minimum amount is \$11,000 and the maximum is \$50,000 with a 25% match.

There is a need for an Economic Development Plan this year to satisfy the comptroller's needs. Mary thinks the grant will be ready in May and due in 8 weeks. This year equipment can be requested, for example: a chipper.

Other grant opportunities were mentioned:

1. DOS: Complete Streets
2. Transportation Alternatives
3. TD Bank (up to \$50,000)
4. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
5. Arbor Day Foundation
6. Five Star but need 5 community members
7. National Wildlife Federation

5. Conference Update: Entitled: Sustainable Urban Forestry Dig In

The Conference will be in July at Skidmore College in Saratoga. The three days include a fee of \$95 and sleeping accommodations at \$55 per day in a hallway dorm room or 4 person apartments (double beds, kitchen facility, and two bathrooms). There will be on and off campus tours and various demonstrations and vendors over the three days. One can opt for one day only. Scholarships are available. The price is reduced somewhat if the municipality is a ReLeaf member. Linda suggested taking videos of the special events so they could be posted on YouTube for others to view if they could not attend. Mary will see if something can be done.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Arbor Day Poster Distribution: Mary has more posters and book marks in her car. She also wants groups to take a picture of themselves in front of or by their Arbor Day metal sign showing the number of years. Mary took a selfie at the Village of Red Hook sign which only Linda could identify. Linda inquired as to when the posters are due. Mary indicated she thought in mid December but this year it was in January. She will see if the information can be distributed to teachers in September so they have a longer time to work on submissions. Mary will also try to put together a preferred tree listing based on Lou Sobestos (sp.) prior work before he retired.

2. Reminder to Join: www.NYSUFC.org

3. Megan Offner of NY Heartwoods, est. 2011: Her tree business promotes sustainable harvest and reusing downed trees to avoid filling up landfills. Trees are cut into usable boards. The business is presently located in a Tech City building in Kingston but the building will be torn down for redevelopment. They are looking for a building with 5000 sq. ft. on about 1/3 acre. Linda suggested she contact Chambers of Commerce in the area to see what might be available. She thought it to be a good idea. Her contact number is 917-647-1748 email: megan@newyorkheartwoods.com; website: www.newyorkheartwoods.com

4. Next Meeting: May 20th in East Fishkill. Members will be notified through email.

5. Adjourned: 12:30 pm

6. Special Note: This was a first time meeting for Cathy Michael and Linda Keeling. They both felt it was a very important to participate as a means of meeting others with their similar problems and solutions regarding tree planting and maintenance and acquiring new information on the state level. It was also a means of further interfacing and recommending suggestions to Mary and George from DEC. They seemed to be very appreciative of the input.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC sec.