

Town of Red Hook

Tree Preservation Commission

Minutes: April 19, 2016

APPROVED 5-17-16

Attendance: Chairman Cathy Michael, Karen Cadorette, Eleanor Friery, Dave Grover, Doug Traudt, Hop Michael, and Linda Keeling, secretary

Absent: Sarah Imboden, Town Council Liaison and Nancy Guski, ex-officio

Guest: Brent Kovalchik, Village Green liaison and Cody Hay

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 7:03 pm. She handed out an agenda.

Quote of the month: “Acts of creation are ordinarily reserved for gods and poets. To plant a pine, one need only a shovel.” By Leopold, an environmentalist

Minutes: There was a quorum.

Minor corrections: spellings of last names: change “a” to “o” in Kovalchik, add “o” in Profous and change “ie” to “ea” in Pearson, remove “ial” to “o” in ex-officio and remove “ed” in planted.

Motion: *Hop Michael* motioned to accept the March 22, 2016 minutes as amended, *Eleanor Friery* seconded, all agreed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Arbor Day Celebration, Apr. 30th: *Eleanor Friery, Cathy Michael, Linda Keeling* and *Hop Michael* worked on the medallions at the Michael’s house. They strung 140 and there were 238 of the wooden ones. Eleanor will work on them at her home in the evening. *Doug Traudt* will cut more branches.

Eleanor Friery reported that the free DEC seedlings came today. The white cedars are slow growers. She also received grey dogwood and high bush cranberry. She met with the first and third grade teachers about lessons. She met with Perry Sheldon last week. He had the edge plowed for planting. She sent him a thank you note.

On Tuesday, 26th, noon, Eleanor Friery will host her annual work luncheon for a few members. *Cathy Michael, Linda Keeling* and *Nancy Guski* will help judge the posters.

On Friday, 29th pictures will be taken of the poster winners for K-2 at 9:00 am at Mill Rd. Elementary School. *Nancy Guski* usually takes a photo of the winners. *Cathy Michael* will attend to become more familiar of the process.

On the 30th, Arbor Day Celebration, members will meet at the town hall. *Eleanor Friery* will bring her tent and chairs, *Linda Keeling* will bring her three tables and prepared tree and shrub seedlings. Nancy Guski and Linda Keeling will supply the raffle basket. They will man the tables from 9-2.

Doug Traudt and *Cody Hay* will be available with tree gear and explanations.

Doug Traudt asked about tapping sugar maple trees. There is a stress factor in doing that. He noted that Fleishman's has a wonderful tapping system up the mountains. *Linda Keeling* noted that Crown Maple uses a reverse osmosis system.

Karen Cadorette mentioned that at the Rec Park there are 6 crab apple trees and the 2 elm trees by the snack bar needing pruning.

Brent Kovalchik reported that Village Green planted 9 trees and had to scramble to get 23 volunteers to pitch in due to the earlier delivery date.

Cathy Michael will coordinate the modified luncheon for Arbor Day for the workers by ordering from Griff's Deli.

The Red Hook Public Library will be setting up a table on building birdhouses out of recycled materials. They will also be able to sign out books through the town's wifi connection.

Supervisor Robert McKeon will be contacted about reading the Arbor Day Tree City Proclamation in the morning.

2. Tree City Awards: At the Tree City Award Ceremony in Albany, we received a new flag marking 10 years, paperweight, pin and 2 inch square decal. *Cathy Michael* will wash the old flag to be used on the table. DEC Region 3 forester, George Profous, delivered two metal signs. *Cathy* and *Hop Michael* determined only one sign is needed in Upper Red Hook with the need to add the 10 year sticker. *Cathy* gave the new hat to *Dave Grover*.

Discussion focused on the possibility of students making a poster for the Statewide Poster Contest which is due in December. It was determined that the fifth grade teachers would receive the information to pass onto their children if they wanted to voluntarily participate on their own. On the state level, 2500 are judge with just one winner participating in the luncheon in Albany with their family and a bookmark made with the winning poster on it.

It was agreed our local contest date should be left alone as it works into the teacher's crammed schedule as it is. We get more participation, acknowledgement and a minimum of 18 books are given out according to *Eleanor Friery*.

3. ReLeaf Meeting in Hyde Park: *Cathy Michael* and *Linda Keeling* attended the meeting on Thursday, April 7th at Bellefield House. Linda wrote up minutes for the members.

4. Upper Red Hook Rt. 9 Turn-off Project: *Hop Michael* has taken on this project with the help from *Dave Grover*. *Hop* created a map (one inch equals 20 ft.) of the proposed changes to the 1/3 acre stretch of land and roadway. He has obtained literature from Central Hudson about planting under wires. He has made contact with Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke, ZEO Steve Cole and DOT regarding the land and the installation of the Tree City sign. He talked with Chuck Walters of the DOT. The Plan calls

for plantings under the wires not to exceed 15-20 ft. and 20-25 ft. at 15 ft. away from the telephone wires. The set back from the town road, Rt. 9, is 25 ft. or 14 ft. from the edge of the pavement. A team of people from DOT will review the plan and approve it by Central Hudson. Agencies or contractors must have \$1 million liability insurance coverage. The town will be contacted about the two catch basins.

On the northern catch basin is loaded with non-native, invasive phragmites. In that area is a tree stump, choke cherries, red osier dogwood which he trimmed up, a pussy willow in the low land which is swampy. The southern catch basin has cattail and there is a hollow 20 ft. stump. The native fringe tree is not fussy and is ornamental. 500 to 1000 daffodils could be planted along with a Tatarian maple from Schichtel.

5. One Position Unfulfilled: Cody Hay is interested in joining. He will send a letter to the town board. He has worked for a certified arborist for 6 years. He is experienced in all aspects of planting and removing trees. He especially likes pruning trees artistically. Everyone is happy to have him fulfill the empty seat. He will work on the Upper Red Hook tree planting map.

NEW BUSINESS

1. \$100 check received: A check donation was received from Lillian Lown in appreciation of all the work the tree committee is doing.

2. Cary Institute Course, May 7th, 9-12 and optional field excursion 1-3, free: Cathy Michael passed around a flyer on oaks.

3. Town Clean-Up Day, Sun. April 24th: *Cathy Michael, Hop Michael and Linda Keeling* have volunteered to represent the Tree Commission on the town's clean up day, 12:30 pm registration and runs until 3:00 pm with a luncheon afterwards.

Adjournment:

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

Chairman Cathy Michael adjourned the meeting at 8:28 pm.

Next Meeting: We will meet on **Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at 7:00 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary