

Town of Red Hook  
**Tree Preservation Commission**  
**Minutes: August 17, 2016**  
**Approved 9-20-16**

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

**Absent:** Karen Cadorette, Cody Hay and Town Council Liaison Sarah Imboden

**Guest:** Nancy Guski, ex-officio

**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: “Time spent amongst trees is never wasted time.” Katrina Mayer*

**Memorial Tree for Nancy Guski:** Nancy Guski commented she thought having her tree near Mary Cioffi’s was fine but didn’t want a crab apple and didn’t want to clash with what is there. Hop Michael thought a grand tree could be put where the Firehouse Productions is located but it may not be town property. Linda Keeling thought there may be an easement. Chairman Cathy Michael will check with the Highway Superintendent about a planting spot. Betty Mae’s tree can be planted in the spring during Arbor Day.

**Minutes:** There was a quorum. Minor corrections to the July 19<sup>th</sup> minutes as follows:

1. Page 2, #7, Line 6: change “sent out” to “received a”, eliminate “s” on notes, cross out “to the” add in “from”, add after participants “and a thank you card to the student”.

**Motion:** *Hop Michael* motioned to accept the July 19, 2016 minutes with the corrections as amended, *Eleanor Friery* seconded, all agreed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Pruning Update:** *Dave Grover* and *Hop Michael* reported that the maples at the Recreation Park in front of the pool were trimmed and should be revisited next year. They pruned the maples north of the tennis courts. They all looked at the maple adjacent to the concession stand and young crabapples across the parking lot storage building’s red maples. They will visit the oaks in November / December. They will take down a tree in the pool area as it was suffering from needle cast disease. They discussed the removal of a dead elm by Linden Ave. They recommended a blue spruce inside the pool area that should be taken down.

Nancy Guski walked with Hop and Cathy Michael. Nancy noted that on Rokeby Rd. and Jefferson Rd. three prunus accolades need pruning.

**2. Hardscrabble Day Plans, Sat. September 17<sup>th</sup>:** Set-up is 9 am. Take down 2 pm. *Chairman Cathy Michael* reported she contacted Todd Baright and got permission to set up on the old telephone lawn as usual. The banner has been found and will be fastened to the fence that day. As usual, *Eleanor Friery* will bring her tent and chairs and *Linda Keeling* will bring her tables, seedlings and potted plants. Cathy will bring the information leaflets. There will be a simple tree leaf identification game and information and raffle. *Hop Michael* will make a poster showing how to mulch around trees rather than using the ubiquitous volcano technique which causes bark rot and encourages above ground rootlets. Linda suggested checking with Village Hall to see who else might be at that location. The massage person was fine last year but the girl in the corner was not interacting well overall.

**3. 10 Year Stickers:** The new stickers were put on all four entrance signs to Red Hook by *Cathy, Hop and Adam Michael*. It was reported that one new sign was vandalized in Upper Red Hook by 22 rifle shots on the back sides. Fortunately, they did not go through to the front but all were concerned about the new signage damage. The extra sign was picked up by Ms. Kellogg.

**4. Upper Red Hook Site Update:** *Hop Michael* noted the permit has been acquired and everything is ready to go. Volunteer Al Trezza will excavate the stump in September. It was noted to call Safe Dig before digging. Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke will supply orange cones when we work near the State Rt. 9 roadway. Minor brush will be removed. The majority of the new planting work will occur in October. Nancy Guski mentioned in the past Michele Decker volunteered to dig the holes with her equipment. Hop or Cathy will make contact with her if necessary.

**5. Tree Order:** There are some concerns about the initial tree choice as shadblow are moderately difficult and do not tolerate salt very well. There are areas where it is wet. Fringe might be good to plant. The Winter King Hawthorn is moderately difficult. Nancy Guski suggested emailing Jim Kiskar with concerns and his recommendations. Also, contact Nina Bassuk from Cornell University. The hot wing maple was mentioned as it is often planted around parking lots. The fringe bush costs \$73 each plus \$5 for hydro gel dipping and bagging. The Rec. Park parking median was mentioned. The maples have a 5 ft. spread and the crabapples are fine. Nancy mentioned a lilac tree was planted for Al Trezza about 4 years ago at the Red Church and it is not doing well. She said the town has taken over the Red Church.

**6. Town Parking Lot Tree:** Due to the solar panels on the town hall roof, it was decided that 3 small ornamental trees like Prunus accolade would fill the space and not interfere with the solar collection. *Linda Keeling*, although realizing the Highway Maintenance wants to minimize their work efforts, was hoping some foliage plantings could be located in front of the fencing to break up the all wood appearance.

**7. Archives:** *Chairman Cathy Michael* and *Linda Keeling* will work on culling and saving documents in the near future.

**8. 2017 Budget:** *Chairman Cathy Michael* handed out the proposed final budget for 2017. It included the following for a total of \$1800:

Trees for spring and fall planting.....	\$1,000
Mulch, labels, stakes and miscellaneous materials.....	125
Arbor Day Celebration expenses (tree seedlings and volunteer luncheon).....	225
Mill Road School Arbor Day Program (books, stickers, trees) .....	225
Conferences / workshops .....	150
Printing / Miscellaneous .....	75

The group actively participates several weeks working with the school children, coordinating purchasing, planting and pruning in the spring and fall, and participating in Arbor Day and Hardscrabble Day events by interacting with the public.

**MOTION:** *Eleanor Friery* motioned to accept the proposed 2017 Budget, *Dave Grover* seconded, all agreed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Barrytown Church Tree:** It was reported that one small leaf linden tree died. It may be replaced with a small red maple. Mulch will need to be bought.

### **Adjournment:**

*Chairman Cathy Michael* adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.

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

**Next Meeting:** We will meet on **Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 7:00 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary