

Town of Red Hook

Tree Preservation Commission

Minutes: January 17, 2017

Approved: February 21, 2017

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

Absent: Doug Traudt, Codie Hay and Town Council Liaison Sarah Imboden

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: *Chairman Cathy Michael* called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. She handed out an agenda.

Linda Keeling noted she has a key for the town hall. She suggested Cathy hand hers in to the clerk so the Agriculture and Open Space Committee can use it with a new secretary. Cathy agreed to hand her key in for the next day.

Quote of the month: **“Winter is a season of recovery and preparation.” By Paul Theroux**

Minutes: There was a quorum (4/7). Minor corrections to the November 15, 2016 minutes as follows:

1. Page 1: Change Minute motion’s date from November to “October 18”.
2. Page 1: # 2 Add: “Lane” to Rockefeller
3. Page 1: #1 Replace the comma with a period after them.
4. Page 2: #1 change spruce to “spire”.

Motion: *Dave Grover* motioned to accept the November 15, 2016 minutes with the minor corrections as amended, *Karen Cadorette* seconded, all agreed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Pruning: *Hop Michael* would like to concentrate on pruning trees at St. Margaret’s Home in February. He will talk with John Kuhn about any trees he wants cut and picking up the brush for us.

Karen Cadorette had a question about the Rec Park pruning the crabapples at the tennis court and baseball areas.

Linda Keeling asked the group if they knew why the tree at the Village’s Library tree was cut down. She noticed that there was just minor rot at one branching area. The others said it was probably considered a dangerous tree as they had a limb fall down from the Norway maple. Linda stated it looks very naked now with all the tall trees removed.

2. Spring Planting: There is still a need to plant a Commemorative fringe tree for Betty Mae Van Parys. *Hop Michael* will talk to Firehouse Productions about planting along their open street area.

Karen Cadorette noted a *freemanii* maple was planted in front of the post office. It should grow to about 30 ft.

The Tree Commission has recognized that *Triebel's Garage* has been in continuous business in Red Hook for 100 years. They started their early business in the Village then moved south just outside the village but still on the Route 9 main highway to accommodate their ever expanding car repair business. They have agreed to a celebrant tree planting. *Linda Keeling* asked about a plaque. There was some discussion then it was decided since it is a special centennial dedication *Cathy* will look into it.

Linda Keeling suggested *Hop* get in touch with the Chamber of Commerce's *Kim Gomez* so that a ribbon cutting can be done. The newspapers should also be contacted. Self-taken pictures can be submitted, too.

The March seedling order will be done by *Linda Keeling* again.

3. Town Hall Planting: The Michaels have been in contact with *Theresa Burke*, Superintendent of Highways, and suggested 3 paperbark maples which get to be 20 ft. tall. This is the suggestion but is dependent on availability from the tree nursery.

The *Gordy Mergendahl* Commemorative tree needs replacement as it died and was removed. It was near the sign by the pool. The plaque is still there. This site is not good as it is overplanted. *John Kuhn* will be consulted.

The Commemorative tree for *Nancy Guski* might be an American Beech. It is native and the seeds are edible for wildlife. The tree can get to be 100 ft. high.

4. Archives: This is still at a stand-still but will be addressed soon. *Linda Keeling* cleaned out some of her accumulated secretarial papers. *Cathy and Hop Michael* are making some room in their basement.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mapping Trees Planted: *Linda Keeling* suggested that we do an updated map locating the trees already planted. Everyone thought that was a good idea. *Karen Cadorette* said she and *Brenda Cagle* have the GPS longitude and latitude spots on their computers.

2. Brochure: *Linda Keeling* suggested developing a brochure similar to the *St. Margaret's Home* brochure as a means of further outreach to the public. Everyone thought it was a good idea.

3. Letterhead: *Linda Keeling* suggested we do a revised letterhead and eliminate the list of members along the side as was done in the past. Just one ream of 500 would be sufficient. *F&M Printing* has the logo on file. Everyone agreed it was a good idea. *Chairman Cathy Michael* will look into it.

4. 2008 Tree Ordinance Law: *Linda Keeling* suggested revisiting the wording to the law in light of the tree cutting done in *Tivoli* at *Teviotdale* so the law can protect trees especially old growth areas in historic settings along the National Historic locations. Right now the wording does not specify the significance of the corridor protection overlay. Everyone agreed it was a good idea as we are responsible for doing a yearly appraisal of the *Forestry Management Plan (FMP)*. A question was asked about the eagles nest. *Linda Keeling* said the landscape architect indicated there is a 350 ft. area of protection.

Dave Grover suggested working on our town website page to include the members, Commemorative Tree list, etc. Everyone thought it would be a great project for an intern at the *Bard Environmental Studies* program. *Linda Keeling* noted that under a new Americans with Disability Law all municipal websites must be ADA compliant affecting font size adjustments, hearing impaired capabilities, videos

with captioning. She noted that the law says 5 members when it was changed to 7 by the town board so updating the Ordinance's wording is recommended.

Eleanor Friery asked about Teviotdale updates. *Linda Keeling* said she went to the Planning Board's public hearing (the Michaels were in attendance also) and spoke out to let the owner know that according to the ordinance 75 trees x \$500 per tree is what should have been owed to the town. She asked the Planning Board to allow the Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) to work with the Tree Commission when assessing the trees and replanting. She wanted the Planning Board to know we are here to assist even if there is a landscape architect's plan. The more eyes the better the plan. *Hop Michael* said the large trees were left and the understory plantings will be done. *Cathy Michael* said the area in question was converted to a grassy lawn and stands out as a break in the tree coverage from the opposite side of the river while canoeing.

5. Budget, 2016 Expenses: *Chairman Cathy Michael* ordered the tools with the left over money. They are labeled with the Town of Red Hook Tree Commission and are being stored temporarily in her barn. Hopefully, in the spring the Highway Department can give us a closet to store them. *Cathy* said she used up most of the money with a few dollars left over. *Linda Keeling* asked about the donation money. *Cathy* said it is still there as we do not have to use it by a certain date. *Cathy* was unsure how much we were approved for 2017 so she will contact the bookkeeper, Ann Conway.

6. Arbor Day: Arbor Day is scheduled for Friday, April 28th, 2017. We will celebrate it on Saturday, April 29th, 2017 with the planting of trees, luncheon at town hall, seedling and information distribution at the town hall. *Eleanor Friery* said she will continue with the education program at Mill Road Elementary School.

Last year, March 30th was the Tree City Luncheon Awards celebration in Albany. The Chairman has not heard about this year's event, yet. We hope to have a few members attend again.

Cathy Michael had a learning curve in filling out the Tree City submission which was due Dec. 31st. She had to revise 2 of the 4 sections. She learned about the process and the need to take more pictures and utilizing the local newspapers for articles. The signed Proclamation was supposed to be scanned and sent in. Next year it will be easier. Everyone was very appreciative for all the hard work she did on the submission.

7. Committee Membership: *Codie Hay* has not been able to attend a lot of meetings; therefore, *Chairman Cathy Michael* would like to open it up to the public. *Linda Keeling* said she has experienced a lot of people's interest in the group during table events during Arbor and Hardscrabble Days. Everyone agreed it is good to try to attract others unknown to us now. *Linda Keeling* reminded everyone about the seed collections for the feely boxes for Hardscrabble Day.

Adjournment:

Motion: *Dave Grover* motioned to adjourn the meeting, *George Michael* seconded and all agreed. The meeting ended at 8:00 pm.

Next Meeting: The next regularly scheduled meeting is **February 21, 2017 at 7:00 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary