

Town of Red Hook  
**Tree Preservation Commission**  
**Minutes: February 21, 2017**  
**APPROVED 3-21-17**

**Attendance:** Cathy Michael, George (Hop) Michael, Doug Traudt, Dave Grover, Karen Cadorette, and Linda Keeling, secretary

**Absent:** Eleanor Friery, Codie Hay and Town Council Liaison Sarah Imboden

**Guest:** Brent Kovalchik, Deputy Mayor Village of Red Hook

**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 7:02 pm. She handed out an agenda.

*Quote of the month: “Let us love winter, for it is the spring of genius.” by Pietro Aretino*

**Minutes:** There was a quorum (5/7). Minor corrections to the January 17, 2017 minutes as follows:  
1. Page 1: Include Cathy Michael as attendee. Change the spelling of “Cody” to “Codie” also on page 3, #7, Line 1.  
2. Page 2: line 1: add “ii” to the end of “freeman”. 3. Page 2: #3, line 2: change “paperback” to “paperbark”  
3. Page 3: Line 4: change “up date” to “update”

**Motion:** *Karen Cadorette* motioned to accept the January 17, 2017 minutes with the minor corrections as amended, *Doug Traudt* seconded, all agreed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Budget \$1800:** *Chairman Cathy Michael* informed the group that our 2017 budget has been approved for \$1800, an increase of \$300 from last year. This will allow the group to purchase the Commemorative trees and other supplies needed.

**2. Building Key Returned:** *Chairman Cathy Michael* returned the town hall front door key to the town clerk. Secretary *Linda Keeling* has a key. She usually arrives early to open and close the building.

**3. Pruning Update:** *Hop Michael* said the crabapples in the Rec Park were pruned. John Kuhn emailed him about two projects:

1. St. Margaret’s Home: out of 6 spruce trees, 4 are dead with the remaining 2 all but dead. They are old and about 20 ft. tall. Hop felt some could have the roots cut and the tree toppled. He felt that none would cause a problem with mowing. He will get in touch with John Kuhn about how and where he wants the cut trees located.

*Linda Keeling* asked if these were the trees to be used as landscaping between Hannaford and St. Margaret's Home as required by the Planning Board. He felt they were originally there before the Hannaford building was erected and they are not providing any greenery coverage.

2. The North Parking Lot at the Rec Park off Apple Ring: near the entrance to the Nature Trail, a shadblow, mulberry and black cherry, etc. need pruning and culling. There is one good size maple limb that he will leave until June.

Other locations to consider: Jim Cayea called *Cathy Michael* about his employee who is the daughter of the Mergendahls. Her family was wondering about their dad's memorial tree. *Cathy* and *Hop Michael* looked at the Rec Park site and determined there was not room to plant a Mergendahl Commemorative replacement tree in that location. *Cathy* informed the Mergendahls that the new tree will be planted in a new location. North of the tennis court there are already 2 red oaks. One red oak for Mergendahl will be added during the spring planting. There is more room there and 3 looks better than 2. The family was fine with the oak over the flowering tree.

*Linda Keeling* asked about the sign for the tree. *Cathy* noted that the commemorative plaque is on the pool sign.

*Brent Kovalchik* wanted to know how Commemorative trees are handled if it is through your budget or through the town's budget line item? Most felt our budget handles the purchases but persons can donate specifically towards the purchase, too.

Discussion focused on Commemorative trees and the difficulties of sustaining them over time. *Linda Keeling* suggested if the person worked for the town that the town's budget covers that cost. Otherwise persons can donate a tree for planting in honor of the person or family and the cost of the plaque. Everyone agreed.

**4. Triebel Tree / Plaque:** *Cathy* and *Hop Michael* visited the site and talked with the owner. The intent is to plant 3 trees, *Triebel* will pay for 2 trees. Discussion suggested lilac trees or Ivory Japanese Silk (syringe reticulate) <http://www.monrovia.com/plant-catalog/plants/5159/ivory-silk-japanese-tree-lilac/> as there are wires on the north side. They reach 20 ft. high and have a 15 ft. spread with a white flower and are drought tolerant.

The plaque wording was discussed and agreed upon to read: "Triebel's Garage, Centennial Tree, 2017". *Hop Michael* will contact the Chamber of Commerce and Northern Dutchess News, *Kate Goldsmith* and/or *Dick Wambach* about the special planting day celebration.

**5. Stationery:** It was decided that a ream of 500 sheets is too much and would be wasted. Instead *Chairman Cathy Michael* will have her son scan the former logo and cut and paste onto sheets as needed to save money.

**6. Brochure Design:** It was decided that *Linda Keeling* could draft a brochure template that the group could view and discuss.

**7. Tree City Meeting:** The annual DEC Tree City meeting is again in Albany on Thursday, March 30, 2017 at the Albany Hilton. Attending will be: *Cathy Michael, Hop Michael, Dave Grover, Linda Keeling and Brent Kovalchik*. *Sally Kellogg* will be contacted to reserve seats for the luncheon. Due to the DEC early poster deadline in December, it was felt it was too much of a burden for the teachers and students at Mill Rd. Elementary. So we will not be involved in a submission. The children participate annually with great enthusiasm for our Arbor Day Celebration which will be Sat. April 29th at the town hall with the Village Tree Committee joining us again. It is our turn to host the event.

**8. Town Hall Planting:** The paperbark maple is not available. We are suggesting one large katsura tree which has a 45 ft. height with a 45 ft. spread and cotton candy aroma in honor of Nancy Guski. <http://www.yourgardensanctuary.com/katsura-tree/> The Firehouse Lane has a large median for trees with the wires on the opposite side. We still need to plant a tree for Betty Mae Van Parys perhaps in the fall when the sidewalk installation is done.

Firehouse Lane can take 5 trees. Firehouse Productions will purchase 4 quercus bicolor swamp white oak and we will purchase 1 of the same. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quercus\\_bicolor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quercus_bicolor)

*Linda Keeling* reminded all to take pictures of the upcoming plantings and celebration.

**9. Membership:** The problem was *Codie Hay* did not submit an official letter to the town board but he is willing to stay on. Everyone in the group wants *Codie* to be a member and hope he can make the meetings in the future.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Recreation Park:** For the fall planting project the group wants to rework the plantings around the sign at the Rec Park as some of the plantings are too crowded and overgrown. The Norway maple was hacked by Central Hudson. The Pool Committee will be contacted.

*Doug Traudt* mentioned the huge beech trees on West Market St. These are included in the Village Inventory and not a concern for us as we serve the Town but all agreed they are magnificent specimens at *Sue Crane's* and *Jean Duntz's* houses.

*Linda Keeling* suggested getting a contingency of high school students associated with the Tree Commission so they could start planting or replanting trees.

## **Adjournment:**

**Motion:** *Hop Michael* motioned to adjourn the meeting, *Dave Grover* seconded and all agreed. The meeting ended at 8:05 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary