

Town of Red Hook

Tree Preservation Commission

Minutes: March 21, 2017

Approved: 4-19-17

Attendance: Cathy Michael, George (Hop) Michael, Doug Traudt, Dave Grover, Eleanor Friery, Cody Hay and Linda Keeling, secretary

Absent: Karen Cadorette 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 7:04 pm. She handed out an agenda. *Quote of the month:* **“Spring is the time of plans and projects.” by Leo Tolstoy, Anna Karenina**

Minutes: There was a quorum (6/7). Minor corrections to the February 21, 2017 minutes as follows:

Page 1 & 2: Kavalchik misspelled should be with an “o” “Kovalchik”

Page 2: #2 Re move the “s” from “needs”. Line 14: clarify: “Cathy noted that the commemorative plaque is on the pool sign.”

Page 2: #2, Line 5: spelling correction: “drought”

Page 3: #8, Line 1: add “maple” after paperbark

Motion: *Eleanor Friery* motioned to accept the February 21, 2017 minutes with the minor corrections as amended, *Dave Grover* seconded, all agreed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Tree City Luncheon Celebration, Albany, NY: Brent Kovalchik will not be riding with the Tree Commission members on Thursday, March 30, 2017. Juliana Pearson of the Village Green will be taking his place. *Cathy and Hop Michael* will drive several members: Linda Keeling, Cody Hay, Doug Traudt and Dave Grover. Members are to meet at her house at 8 am.

2. Tree Order: Some of the order had to be canceled as Firehouse Productions decided against receiving and paying for trees. Theresa Burke wanted a personal tree and will pay for it by check to reimburse the town. All other trees were available.

3. Commemorative Plaques: Contact was made with John Kuhn regarding the Mergendahl red oak tree. The Rec Park will pay for the plaque.

4. Tree Commission Brochure Draft Mock-Up: *Linda Keeling* presented copies of the two pages inside spread “A Brief History of the Tree Commission” and “Community Outreach Programs”. The front will say “Improving Red Hook’s Community Tree Environment” Town of Red Hook Tree Preservation Commission. A photo of a tree will be inserted. Linda suggested the back page be for kids with knowledge facts, games, etc. The members reviewed the text and will further review it at home for

comments. *Eleanor Friery* will revise the school program. Linda indicated this was a mock-up and can be changed to suit their needs. It gives them something to work from. *Dave Grover* wanted to know if it will be produced internally or by a professional group. Linda indicated the St. Margaret's Home brochure was done by Richard Wambach and F&M Printing could also be consulted.

5. Pruning Update: *Hop Michael* and *Dave Grover* returned to St. Margaret's Home and worked on a tree down in the yard, cut the roots and pushed over 4 trees. The clean-up took about 4 hours one day. Another day, John Kuhn and Howie pushed over 2 trees. Hop and Dave cut up the trees and started a burn pile. So the area looks much better cleaned up.

Rec Park North Entrance Nature Walk: Branch pile will be removed by John Kuhn at a later date. The Mergendahl tree will be re-planted this spring and in the fall the front lawn section of the pool area should be addressed. Hop felt the Pool area needs some extensive landscaping work. He noticed the handicap ramp needs staining. Linda Keeling inquired if it is wood and it is. She suggested a metal railing would be better.

Linda Keeling reminded Hop to inform the pool committee of the tree planting and sign area landscaping renovations to be done by the Tree Commission.

6. Arbor Day Celebration, Sat. April 29th: *Eleanor Friery* was appreciative to receive the free NYSDEC Saratoga Nursery trees' application from *Linda Keeling* while she was still on vacation and got it signed by the principal recently. Eleanor handed out the one page narrative for the school children and the Poster Contest due Friday, April 21st with winners announced Friday, April 28th. The prizes are books about trees with the winning posters displayed at the Red Hook Town Hall for two weeks then returned to the students. For a Special for First Grade, if classes read and discuss four books about trees, they will be eligible to have a Nature Trail lesson and a seedling planted with the children. Eleanor will meet with the 1st and 3rd grade teachers after they receive the info sheet.

Eleanor invited tree members to her house on noon April 25th for a luncheon to judge the posters. She will have the posters grouped by classroom level. Everyone said they would attend (Cathy, Hop, Dave, Doug, Cody, Nancy? and Linda) except *Karen Cadorette* who was absent.

Planning for the Arbor Day Event:

1. *Doug Traudt* volunteered to cut 250 tree slice medallions, drill the holes and provide wood and tree ring samples for the info table.
2. *Cathy Michael* will attend the school outdoor program with Eleanor Friery and take pictures.
3. Hours of operation 10-2, set up at town hall at 9 am.
4. *Eleanor Friery* will bring her canopy tent.
5. *Linda Keeling* will bring her tables and labeled seedlings, raffle box, extra posters, etc.
6. *Cathy Michael* will contact Supervisor McKeon to sign and read the Tree Proclamation.
7. *Eleanor Friery* will invite Nancy to the luncheon and ask if she still wants to do the raffle.
8. *Cody Hay* will bring and demonstrate his tree climbing gear, show the saws and demonstrate knot tying.
9. *Cathy Michael* will contact the newspapers about advertising the event.

10. *Hop Michael* will contact the Chamber of Commerce to advertise the event and attend the Triebel tree planting celebration.
11. *Cathy Michael* will contact Michele Decker about digging the holes. (Contact 1-800-Dig)
12. *Eleanor Friery* will hand out about 20 books to the poster contest winners.
13. *Cathy Michael* will order food for the event and invite the Village Green Committee.
14. *Cathy and Hop Michael* will retrieve and place the sign on the front lawn before the event.
15. *Planting Crew*: Plant 3 Ivory Japanese Silk (Triebel), 1 katsura (town hall), 1 Mergendahl red oak (Rec Park)

Hop Michael stated Jim from the tree nursery said orders from our area are down so we may have to pick them up in Albany.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Upper Red Hook Planted Site: *Hop Michael* checks on it frequently and the trees seem to be doing alright so far.

B. Mulch: *Cathy Michael* will buy mulch for the new plantings.

C. Middle School Kid Involvement: *Linda Keeling* suggested contacting the Middle School science club about getting some kids to help plant the trees. This age group has been very helpful in the past. *Eleanor Friery* noted that Mary Pat Budd retired and she is unsure who is replacing her. Linda felt we should still make contact with them to continue their interest and involvement in community activities.

Linda again reminded everyone about the seeds for the feely boxes.

D. Oldest Tree: Doug Traudt mentioned the oldest tree (1699) in Newburgh (eastern cottonwood) had to come down about 5 years ago. *Dave Grover* said a “Giving Tree chair” was made from a stump. Everyone thought this was a good idea and maybe a tree stump chairs could be incorporated into the Red Hook landscape.

Adjournment:

Motion: *Hop Michael* motioned to adjourn the meeting, *Doug Traudt* seconded and all agreed. The meeting ended at 7:55 pm.

Next Meeting: The next regularly scheduled meeting is **April 18, 2017 at 7:00 pm.**

IMPORTANT DATES:

1. **Thursday, March 30th, 8:00 am:** Meet at Michael’s house, Albany Tree City Luncheon, Albany
2. **Friday, April 21st:** Linda pick-up seedlings at Home and Farm Center, Millbrook.
3. **Tuesday, April 25th: 12:00 pm** Eleanor’s house: Poster Judging Luncheon
4. **Saturday, April 29th: 9:00 am:** Arbor Day Celebration: trees planted, tent and tables erected, demonstration, luncheon with Village Green

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary