

Town of Red Hook  
**Tree Preservation Commission**

**Minutes: May 16, 2017**

**Approved 6-20-17**

**Attendance:** Cathy Michael, George (Hop) Michael, Doug Traudt, Dave Grover, Eleanor Friery, Karen Cadorette, Codie Hay and Linda Keeling, secretary (100%)

**Absent:** 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 7:00 pm. She handed out an agenda.

*Quote of the month:* **“Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe.” Abraham Lincoln**

**Minutes:** There was a quorum (7/7). There was a minor correction to the minutes with the spelling of Codie’s first name and other minor errors.

**Motion:** *David Grover* motioned to accept the April 2017 minutes as amended, *Doug Traudt* seconded, all agreed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Letter of Interest:** *Codie Hay* signed his letter of interest and submitted it to *Chairman Cathy Michael* who will get it to the town clerk.

**2. Arbor Day Celebration, Sat. April 29th:** We took in a donations record amounting to \$265. Griff’s Deli kindly donated the cost of the luncheon. A letter of appreciation will be sent. In appreciation of Michele Decker’s hole-digging, she was taken out to lunch by Cathy and Hop Michael.

*Eleanor Friery* reported 450 children participated in the poster contest. There were 21 winners. Eleanor gave 9 lessons to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades. First graders planted a tree and tree cookie necklaces were distributed. Due to rainstorms 1 outdoor class was canceled and held inside. The micro storm burst took down a pin oak tree. She taught her outdoor on the perimeter with the theme of the lesson: Changes in nature. The huge tree was left in place and the trail changed by Perry Sheldon, grounds supervisor, and Steve Hart, to accommodate the Nature trail and lessons. Eleanor bought items and submitted her costs. 270 medallions were made. Eleanor asked Doug Traudt if he could have them two weeks earlier next year. She has some left over seedlings: silky dogwood, red buds and white cedar. She will drop them off to *Linda Keeling* for potting up.

A lively discussion ensued on the micro bursts that Red Hook has been experiencing lately. The last one took out a large tree at the Lutheran church. Bucky Coons barns were blown over. *Hop Michael* said St. John's Church had a large Norway spruce split, damage the roof with the cemetery experiencing some damage. A couple of years ago, the Catholic Church had a large tree come down.

*Linda Keeling* asked Eleanor if she has found an eventual replacement for her. She named a few people but hasn't asked them formerly. It was noted that she could invite them to our meetings and shadow her activities for the future.

**3. Katsura Tree at town hall:** The town hall now has an automatic sprinkler system which comes on at 7 am. So the tree will get one hour of watering automatically. Everyone was pleased with that improvement.

**4. Stickers:** The 11 year stickers were attached to the four signs in the town.

**5. Pruning:** *Hop Michael* reported that the north parking lot in the Rec Park had limbs taken down with the help of Bob Eberhardt. Hop cleaned it up. In June, Hop will oversee the pruning of the maple trees. *Eleanor Friery* thanked *Hop Michael* for helping to dig the holes at Mill Road School. She would like the trail trimmed and weed wacked. Hop will go to the school to do this during a weekend.

*Doug Traudt* noted Pitcher Lane needs serious pruning done. There are many old snag trees and ailanthus needs to be removed. This future project actually aligns with the originally intended work through the former DEC grant award under the leadership of Chairman Nancy Guski.

Rockefeller Lane oaks will be done after October. Theresa Burke suggested that the trees be used to modify snow drifts but the Tree Commission members felt this was not the purpose of these trees. Perhaps a snow fence would better serve her road needs. Due to the fact that the drooping branches are in the way, the town highway department can't mow close to the trees which are causing ailanthus to sprout.

*Hop Michael* has been working with John Kuhn and the Pool Board will be contacted. The sign area needs two trees removed. This will allow the sign to be more visible. Presently there is a tulip tree growing which will grow too big for the space. Consideration will be given to replacing them with one or two trees on the property.

**6. Triebel Centennial Tree:** They were planted and an article appeared in the Northern Dutchess News with a photograph which was passed around.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Rt. 9 Sidewalk Plans:** Brenda Cagle gave *Chairman Cathy Michael* a schematic of the plans. The project will contain western arborvitae and Korean Linden to replace the honey locust that was removed. The varying selection is good for diversity in general. *Karen Cadorette* noted that our tree survey indicated there are 75% red maples in Red Hook so diversification of species is welcomed and embraced for future plantings. Karen will do some research on the tree's hardiness.

**B. Estuary Area:** *Doug Traudt* noted there are many dead ash trees in the estuary area of the Tivoli Bays. They are being chipped up.

**C. Hardscrabble Day, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>:** *Linda Keeling* did an initial email contact with the village trustee regarding reserving a spot. Chairman Cathy Michael will negotiate further in trying to secure our

original long time set-up area at the old telephone building. We feel we blend in well with the kids activities as we work with the elementary students, look for new future members and have hands-on game activities and information for the children.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion:** *Hop Michael* motioned to adjourn the meeting, *Dave Grover* seconded and all agreed. The meeting ended at 8:10 pm.

**Next Meeting:** The next regularly scheduled meeting is **June 20, 2017 at 7:00 pm** at the town hall. It is open to the public.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary