

DRAFT

Town of Red Hook

Tree Preservation Commission

Minutes: June 20, 2017

Attendance: Cathy Michael, George (Hop) Michael, Dave Grover, Eleanor Friery, 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 6:02 pm. This was a change in the regular meeting time due to the Town Board's change in meeting day. She handed out an agenda.

Quote of the month: "A tree does not move unless there is wind." Afghan Proverb

Minutes: There was a quorum (5/7). The following minor corrections were noted by Eleanor Friery.

p. 1: Item 2, Ph 2, Line 3: Change 4 to "1 outdoor class was" and Ph 5: Add "and Steve Hart".

p. 3: Next meeting: change May 16 to "June 20"

Motion: *David Grover* motioned to accept the May 16, 2017 minutes as amended, *Karen Cadorette* seconded, all agreed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Hardscrabble Day, Sept. 23rd: *Chairman Cathy Michael* sent by email the application for the same spot as last year noting our additional games for children and other pertinent tree information.

2. Fall Project: *Hop Michael* spoke with John Kuhn. John will keep in touch with the Pool Board. Hop suggested the Commission meet at the Rec Park after our meeting to access the health and plans for the trees there. A plan will be submitted to John and he has offered his staff and equipment to help. Nothing is happening yet for Pitcher Lane West as Hop wants to talk with Theresa Burke, Superintendent of Highways, first.

3. Codie's Letter to the Town Board: *Chairman Cathy Michael* hand-delivered Codie's acceptance letter to Town Clerk, Sue McCann. She informed Cathy that he was officially approved to the Tree Commission at the last meeting of the Town Board.

4. Pruning Update on Upper Red Hook site: *Dave Grover* and *Hop Michael* jointly mowed and weed whacked last week. It was noted that DOT ran a tractor down the middle and made a mess as it was wet. It is okay now.

A. **Other Pruning:** Dave and Hop worked on the Little Leaf Linden at St. Margaret's Home. It will be better to limb it up during the winter. The maple at the North Rec Park parking lot will be done in June.

5. **Spring Tree Update:** Everyone was pleased to learn that the automatic watering system is working well at the town hall for the Katsura tree planted in honor of former Chairman Nancy Guski. An assessment was made for the health of the following trees and their location: red oak at the Rec Park is doing fine, the Fringe tree is not marginal, Hot Wings looks good, and Triebel's Century lilac trees look good. It was noted that the trees in general have been stressed by the varying temperature swings and precipitation. Members felt they will rally to good health. Overall fertilizer will be needed. *Karen Cadorette* will look around for a long injector to get to the roots.

6. **Trimming at Mill Road:** *Eleanor Friery* said it was not done as she was teaching last week. On June 3rd, she helped Steve Hart. There was a group email but not many came to help. *Hop Michael* volunteered to do the trimming.

7. **Bio Blitz with Nancy Guski:** *Eleanor Friery* noted 12 groups of third graders received instruction on June 13th and 14th. The children worked in teams on identifying a mystery tree, measured and estimated the growth at about 1 inch per 1 year. The ages ranged from four years to 72 years old and 5 trees identified. The trails are useable but there was great devastation from a former microburst.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Thank You Notes:**

A. *Chairman Cathy Michael* read a thank you note from the third grade teachers and presented Eleanor with flowers and she gave one to Nancy Guski, along with a BioBlitz t-shirt. *Eleanor Friery* said the Arbor Day Contest posters were returned to the school for redistribution to the students.

Eleanor said there were left-over tree seedlings and they are in her car. She bemoaned the fact that many of the red bud didn't leaf out. *Linda Keeling* also noted she too received Arbor Day member trees and many didn't leaf out. She will pot them up for Hardscrabble Day for donations.

Dave Grover inquired if a tree borer might be used in the future. *Eleanor Friery* felt the students are too young for that. She invited Dave to come to the classes in the future. He noted we could do a leaf match game and leaf rubbings for the fall public activities.

B. Nancy Guski sent a thank you note which the chairman read.

C. A thank you note was received from Sharon Sullivan for the Arbor Day Raffle winning basket. In an email to the Chairman she noted the high level of mulch around the trees at the north and south Rec park trees. This is a constant issue with the Rec Park staff but the constant reminders are starting to get through. Commission members were pleased to learn that our poster and talk demonstration about "mulch volcanoes" is getting noticed by the public and taken to heart.

2. **ReLeaf Conference, July 13-15, St. John's University, Queens, NY:** Although members felt these conferences are informative, no one volunteered to go.

3. **Rt. 9 E Sidewalk Construction:** The members commented on the proposed landscape tree plan. There were some concerns about the hardiness of one of the trees. *Karen Cadorette* will do some additional research. The little leaf linden and golden rain tree seemed fine.

Karen Cadorette noted that the horse chestnut tree has pink flowers and has heart-shaped leaves but grows large.

Adjournment:

Motion: *Hop Michael* motioned to adjourn the meeting, *Karen Cadorette* seconded and all agreed. The meeting ended at 6:40 pm. All agreed to meet at the Rec Park to assess the trees at the Pool's front property.

Next Meeting CANCELLED: The next regularly scheduled meeting is **July 18, 2017 at 7:00 pm** at the town hall but all decided to take the summer off so it was cancelled. The next regular meeting is **August 15, 2017**.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary