

Town of Red Hook

**Tree Preservation Commission**

**Minutes: August 15, 2017**

**Approved 9-19-17**

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

**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 7:08 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:* **“At the end of the day, the stresses the trees must bear are so great that most of them die prematurely.” The Hidden Life of Trees by Peter Wohlleben (page 178, referring to street trees.)**

**Minutes:** There was a quorum (7/7). The following minor corrections were noted:

p. 1: Item 1, Line 1: change “email” to “mail”.

p. 1: Item 3, Line 1: change “acceptance” to “letter of interest”

p. 2, Item 5, Ph 5: eliminate “not”

p. 2, Item 1, under new Business, Ph 1: add after and “who had”. Ph 2 add a period after flowers.

Eliminate “and” capitalize “she”.

**Motion:** *Chairman Cathy Michael* motioned to accept the June 20, 2017 minutes as amended, *Eleanor Friery* seconded, all agreed.

General Conversation: *Dave Grover* mentioned the trees that fell in NYC. *Chairman Cathy Michael* noted street trees live on average 10 years as compared to non-street trees living on average 75 years. *Dave Grover* observed DOT spraying something along Rt. 9 and Rt. 199 along the guardrails. There were some general complaints about the Arbor Day foundation not sending plants at the right time, the stock not leafing out and non-delivery of free trees.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Hardscrabble Day, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>:** *Chairman Cathy Michael* has not heard back from Jen Norris of the Hardscrabble Committee so at this juncture we are uncertain as to our location. When she gets a notice, she will contact all by email. Those who can come are: *Eleanor Friery, Dave Grover, Doug Traudt and Linda Keeling*. Linda will have about 15 sapling trees potted. We decided not to participate in the parade.

*Dave Grover* has added to his “feely” box game. He will make 3 more and *Cathy Michael* will make the covers. Some seeds can be taken off the ash in front of the town hall for the boxes. *Eleanor Friery* will bring her leaf matching poster. *Cathy Michael* will research what posters and other materials we can distribute.

**2. Fall Project:** *Hop Michael* said the focus will be on the west end of Pitcher Lane. He has created a map with pictures. He talked with Superintendent of Highways, Theresa Burke. The right-of-way is 25 ft. from the center of the road. Property owner Ken Migliorelli was contacted and he was receptive to the project. He offered to help with his backhoe. Hop feels it will take a week to remove old snag maples that are in decline. There's lots of ailanthus. It will need to be excavated out. This will be a multi-year project. There are 4 sections of about 300 ft. with no power lines and about 600 ft. to Linden Ave. We might be able to plant a few trees in the fall.

At the Recreation Park, 2 trees need to be removed. Hop will ask John Kuhn about this. The sign area will get spireas and kousa dogwoods, (Chinese dogwood with June bloom). The 2 hackberries will be removed. *Linda Keeling* referred to the Forestry Management Plan for Pitcher Lane for planting sites.

The budget for this project will entail 6 trees at about \$800-\$900, one tree for the Rec Park and about 7-8 spirea at about \$35 each.

**3. New Sidewalk Project / Plantings:** It was time consuming but *Cathy Michael* and Brenda Cagle walked the sites and made some revisions. Homeowners have changed their minds several times during this project.

The Commission was approached by Supervisor McKeon regarding input on the tree plantings and location in front of the town hall. Five Prunus Accolades with pink spring blooms are hardy and are considered for this area. The Commission felt that they need 20 ft. separation so 4 might be sufficient with one on the south of the sidewalk and 3 on the north side. Each tree will cost about \$120.

**Motion:** *Dave Grover* suggested 4 trees due to the spacing requirements, *Eleanor Friery* seconded, all agreed.

*Chairman Cathy Michael* will contact the town board about the Commission's recommendation.

**4. Betty Mae Van Parys Memorial Tree, other tree varieties:** Betty Mae Van Parys tree selection will need to be changed due to availability choices.

## NEW BUSINESS

**1. Tivoli Bays WMA:** Discussion briefly focused on the email received. It was felt this issue was best handled by the CAC for maybe a joint meeting presentation.

**2. Fall Tree Order:** *Karen Cadorette* will call Jim Kiser about tree availability. *Hop Michael* said the ash trees by Ruge's are dead. Hop will contact DOT, Chuck Walters, to see if they can replace them. The elm at the Foam and Car Wash on Rt. 199 and Orlich Rd. needs replacing. *Eleanor Friery* said the Nature Trail at the elementary school is overgrown with pokeberries. Perry Sheldon will be asked to take care of this.

**Adjournment:** **Motion:** *Codie Hay* motioned to adjourn the meeting, *Doug Grover* seconded and all agreed. The meeting ended at 8:20 pm.

**Next Meeting:** The next regularly scheduled meeting is **Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 7:00 pm** at the town hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary