

DRAFT

Town of Red Hook

## Tree Preservation Commission

### Minutes: September 19, 2017

**Attendance:** Cathy Michael, George (Hop) Michael, Doug Traudt, Eleanor Friery and Linda Keeling, secretary

**Absent:** Dave Grover, Karen Cadorette, 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:** A quorum of 4 out of 7 was present. *Chairman Cathy Michael* called the meeting to order at 7:27 pm. She handed out an agenda.

*Quote of the month: “I took in the woods and came out taller than the trees”.*

**Minutes:** The following minor corrections were noted:

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#2, L1: change “roadway” to “right-of-way”. Ph.2, L2: change spelling of “kusa” to “kousa”. Eliminate “and”, start new sentence with “2 hackberries”, eliminate “crabapple”.

# 3, Ph 2, L 3: change “would” to “might”.

New Business: #2. L 4: change to “will be asked”

*Eleanor Friery* said the school’s Botstein fund was used to cut down the fallen trees. She will investigate to see if the school will put a couple of hundred dollars toward maintenance.

**Motion:** *Eleanor Friery* motioned to accept the August 15, 2017 minutes as amended, *Cathy Michael* seconded, all agreed.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Hardscrabble Day, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>:** *Eleanor Friery, Cathy and Hop Michael and Linda Keeling* will be doing all day. *Doug Traudt* and *Karen Cadorette* have to work all day at their jobs, *Codie Hay* and *Dave Grover* will stop by. Everyone is disappointed in the Village Hardscrabble Committee’s new assignment of our table to the Key Bank lawn on West Market Street. The Commission will consider whether or not to participate next year as we were located behind a tree and received less than half the normal donations. We took in \$31 (\$8 for one tree bought by member *Codie Hay*, \$12 for the raffle and \$11 for donations) and only about 15 people visited the table and games. *Linda Keeling* noted that at the telephone building area some tables didn’t have kid games, some were asking for money for various

groups. It was not worth spending a day at the tables and several days preparing the potted trees. We do much better during our Arbor Day celebration at town hall. Part of the problem was there was no Bouncy-Bounce house to attract children and there was no food truck as we were told there would be. *Chairman Cathy Michael* will write a letter to the Hardscrabble Committee as our table had more to offer the Community with our children's games.

As much work went into preparing the seedlings for sale, *Linda Keeling*, asked if it would be okay to try to sell them in front of her house while the farmer's market is going on. Everyone agreed it was a good idea.

**2. Rec Park Sign Project:** The project was highly successful and makes the sign stand out. Members *Hop Michael*, *Cathy Michael* and *Dave Grover* worked with the Rec Park members *John Kuhn* and *Howie Callies*. The hackberry and spruces were removed and brush was immediately cleaned up. The cornus kousa is not available so we must wait until spring. Serviceberry may be used. *Hop* will speak with *John Kuhn* about the problems and future plans.

**3. New Sidewalk Project:** The sidewalk in front of town hall is done. It was a long saga with several revisions to the proposed plantings. The town board and planning engineers wanted 4 inch trees which cost \$1600 per tree for immediate size impact gratification rather than the 2 ¼ inch trees at a modest cost of around \$100 each that the Commission recommended. The problem is the Commission wanted one of the trees dedicated to Van Parys. Perhaps this can still be done and the Commission would buy the plaque.

*Chairman Cathy Michael* enumerated the proposed tree planting varieties: 2 ginkgos at Hardscrabble Plaza, honey locust at Ulster Savings bank and self-storage and 15 ft. tall arborvitae at Zengen's property.

**4. Pitcher Lane:** *Hop Michael* presented his Pitcher Lane west end diagram. The plantings will be done in the November / December time frame. On Oct. 5 a few trees will be ordered. Three or four trees will be planted (quercus oak).

*Eleanor Friery* asked for permission to start buying \$250 worth of books for our children's educational program. It was granted.

**5. Dead Ash Tree Update:** *Hop Michael* contacted the Department of Transportation (DOT). They determined it was the landowner's problem. *Hop* talked with *Ruge* and he will take a look at the problem as the Tree Commission is willing to plant replacements.

**6. Herbicide Use by DOT Update:** *Hop Michael* reported the herbicide used is unknown. They mowed the strip near Devereaux and mowed down the cattails, phragmites and caged highbush cranberry plantings.

*Cathy Michael* referenced the Sawkill Meeting on Monday which all was interested in finding out about the panel presentation but no members could attend. *Linda Keeling* indicated she could attend and would report back to the group.

**7. Fall Tree Order:** Several trees will be ordered for the north side of Pitcher Lane on the west portion and one tree for Betty Mae Van Parys if the town board won't let us use one for Betty Mae.

**8. Fall Planting Details (Van Parys tree, Rec Park tree):** The ailanthus will be dug out as the roots go deep and new saplings sprout up quickly. *Hop*, *Doug* and *Dave* will work on it. *Linda Keeling* noted the town has sharing rights to a chipper and she thinks *Clinton* owns it.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion:** *Eleanor Friery* motioned to adjourn the meeting, *Hop Michael* seconded and all agreed. The meeting ended at 8:00 pm.

**Next Meeting:** The next regularly scheduled meeting is **Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 7:00 pm** at the town hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary