

Town of Red Hook

**Tree Preservation Commission:
Minutes for September 17, 2019**

APPROVED 10/15/19

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

Absent: Karen Cadorette and Town Council Liaison Sarah Imboden

Guest: None

Location: Red Hook Town Hall

Purpose: Our regular monthly meeting is normally held on the third Tuesday of every month at the Town Hall.

Note: There was no meeting in August.

Call to Order: There was a quorum (6 out of 7). *Chairman Cathy Michael* called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. The Chairman handed out an agenda.

Quote of the month: **“I took a walk in the woods and came out taller than the trees.” By Henry David Thoreau**

Minutes: July 16, 2019 Corrections / Additions

1. P.1: #2, L3: change “compaction” to “reaction”
2. P.1: #4, L2: change spelling of “Elberg” to “Alberg”
3. P.2: #3, L4: change “has” to “have”
4. P.2: #3, Ph.7, L4: eliminate “noted”

Motion: *Doug Traudt* motioned to accept the minutes from June as corrected, *Dave Grover* seconded, all agreed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. “Floppy” Trees on Pitcher Lane: Hop Michael explained he staked and used hosing to straighten the northern west end floppy tree. The suckers on the London Plane on the south side are in good health. They will be allowed to flourish until it will be determined which sucker will be allowed to take over. Hop Michael has mowed the grass around these trees and Rt. 9 north 8 times so far. We all thanked him for his service and use of his own equipment. It shows the tree planting areas are being monitored and cared for by the Tree Commission.

2. Rec Park Sign Planting: *Hop Michael* reported John Kuhn indicated he will talk with the Pool Directors about trimming the bushes under the sign. This is not part of the Tree Commission’s tasks.

3. Round-up Use on State Highway: The group is concerned about the Department of Transportation using Round-up to control weeds along the Rt. 9 Highway. It makes a searing mark on the local plant scenery. Many are concerned about this toxic substance entering the streams and water table. At this point, there has not been direct contact with DOT. It was suggested to ask Red Hook resident and DEC employee, Terry Laibach, to talk about the subject at one of our meetings.

4. Itemized Budget Review: As we are approaching the end of the year, many were concerned about our budget and expenditures. *Chairman Cathy Michael* said we have the same line item of \$2500 which she submitted. She would like to get an itemized budget from Bookkeeper Ann Conway regarding purchases for trees and the donation line item. There was concern for an expense on Hewlett Rd. of \$261.93 that we were charged for but had no involvement with this expense. Cathy will make contact with the bookkeeper about this. For 2019, we spent \$1724.98, leaving \$775.02 but there will be more when the Hewlett Rd. expenditure is resolved. Arbor Day expenses were \$121.79. Donations are \$1044 which is primarily from Arbor Day activities and Memorial Tree donations.

5. Linden Avenue Trees: Superintendent of Schools, Paul Finch, inquired about tree replacements along Linden Avenue. He was referred to the Village Green, Brent Kovalchik, about this. We would like to see more diversity of tree type. All of the present trees are of the same species and probably planted about the same time. Continuous failings are occurring with time.

6. Mill Road School Nature Area Clean-up: Eleanor Friery explained that the Nature Trail has a lot of pokeberry and weeds growing, as well as tree limbs thrown about. A work party will be held on Saturday, October 12th at 9:00 am.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Article of Interest: *Linda Keeling* brought in an April 2019 NYS Conservationist Magazine, p. 18-21, about the "*Spotted Lanternfly, A Pretty (Destructive) Invader*" by Emma Antolos. The pictures and article was instructive and horrifying all at the same time.

2. Rec Park West: John Kuhn relayed information that pre-construction is underway. A suggestion was to plant Norway spruce as a buffer as needle cast disease is prevalent on the white spruce probably due to the change in climate conditions. The Norways are better for snow loads, hardiness and require less maintenance. The plan calls for 18 trees staggered in a row 20 feet apart and 8 ft. tall. Norway spruce grows from 80-100 ft. tall.

3. Former Zengen Home Tree Condition: Many felt that due to the number of DOT sidewalk trees planted on this property which have died, it would be better if they were removed entirely. *Linda Keeling* noted the new owners have done a lot of property upgrading with planting grass behind the house and culling trees in the back yard. Perhaps contact should be made with the owner regarding these trees.

4. Fall 2019 Tree Order: *Chairman Cathy Michael* stated we can easily plant 2 more trees on the south side of Pitcher Lane. There is no *Prunus accolade* available for the fall from the nursery. *Hop Michael* spoke with farmer Ken Migliorelli about possibly us planting 3 maples: crimson, Black alder and London plane on Pitcher Lane. He was in agreement and very supportive of our efforts.

If we have enough money in our budget, we might be able to hire a professional business to remove trees on Pitcher Lane for the fall. The area on the north side needs some grooming to facilitate future tree plantings.

5. Sun Common: *Chairman Cathy Michael* followed up Linda Keeling's suggestion. An inquiry was not responded to. The group was disappointed. Hopefully, Sun Common will reconsider their offer to purchase at least one tree. Hopefully, they will purchase trees more in line with the Rotary's former purchases.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Motion: *Hop Michael* motioned to adjourn the meeting, *Dave Grover* seconded and all agreed.

Next Meeting:

The next scheduled meeting is suggested for **Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 7:00 pm** at the town hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary