

Town of Red Hook
Tree Preservation Commission
Minutes: January 23, 2018
APPROVED 2-20-18

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

Absent: Town Council Liaison Sarah Imboden

Guest: None

Location: Red Hook Town Hall

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

Call to Order: A quorum was present (7out of 7). *Chairman Cathy Michael* called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Quote of the month: **“Because they are primeval, because they outlive us, because they are fixed, trees seem to emanate a sense of permanence. And though rooted in earth, they seem to touch the sky. For these reasons it is natural to feel we might learn wisdom from them, to haunt about them with the idea that if we could only read their silent riddle rightly we should learn some secret vital to our own lives; or even, more specifically, some secret vital to our real, our lasting and spiritual existence.” Egyptian tomb inscription, circa 1400 B.C.**

She handed out an agenda:

1. Rotary Update
2. Pitcher Lane (DigSafe, stump removal, clean-up)
3. New Signs Update
4. Expenditures
5. Red Church Trees

Minutes: The following minor corrections were noted:

- p. 1, #1: Correct spelling of Barry’s surname from “Ramidge”; change the “id” to “a” (Ramage)
- p. 2, #1, Line 2: Add Sale after Dig.
- p. 2, #7, L1: insert “received” after “she”.
- p. 2, #8, L3: and “and trees” after bulbs

Motion: *Dave Grover* motioned to accept the December 2017 minutes as amended, *Cathy Michael* seconded, all agreed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Rotary Update: *Cathy and Hop Michael* attended the Rotary's 7:30 am meeting to present information about the Tree Commission tree project on Pitcher Lane. Rotary members voted to contribute \$500 worth of trees with members helping to plant and water.

2. Pitcher Lane Update: *Hop Michael* presented a 1955 aerial map that his father had when he was on the school board. It showed the heavy planting of street trees all along both sides of Pitcher Lane. The Commission's long term objective is to try to recreate a tree canopy using a variety of species suited to the specific sites.

Hop Michael, Dave Grover and Doug Traudt worked on further preparation of the planting sites. They focused on the removal of the Sumac, Cedar and Ailanthus but it was too cold. Mr. Hildebrandt of Beaver Stump was hired for \$150 to drill out one stump. The rest of the preparation work will continue in the spring as the weather got really cold and the ground was frozen. In the spring, one tall snag will be eliminated composed of an old elm and maple clump. *Doug Traudt* and *Codie Hay* offered their equipment when it is time to plant.

Hop Michael calculates that there is room for 18 more trees on the north side and 20 trees on the south side.

3. New Signs: The new Tree Commission's "Trees Planted Identifier Signs" were retrieved and stored in *Cathy Michael's* garage.

4. Expenditures: The bookkeeper, Ann Conley, gave *Chairman Cathy Michael* a print out and it was determined we went a little over our \$1800 budget by about \$77 but Ann said not to worry. She'll take it out of our donation money. Chairman Cathy Michael said the books cost a little more than expected around \$200 and Hop thought we had more when he hired the stump grinder.

The Commission's 2018 budget was approved for \$2500. Everyone was so grateful to get more than what was requested. Everyone is excited to purchase more trees to plant.

The issue of how to get all these plantings watered received a suggestion from *Linda Keeling* to ask the middle school environmental studies group and the boy and girl scouts as they are always looking for community service. It was also mentioned that the local judges sometimes meter out community service in lieu of jail punishment. *Chairman Cathy Michael* will contact the judges to see if anyone qualifies. Persons in the past have worked at the Recycling Center to fulfill their community service requirement. This will give another opportunity to serve and learn from members.

5. Red Church Trees: *Chairman Cathy Michael* and *Hop Michael* met with John Kuhn regarding how to handle the overgrowth areas. The Town has taken over the responsibility for the Church structure and about one acre of surrounding grounds. They will erect a storage barn, purchase mowers, etc. with grant money. There are still about 200 burial plots available for the St. Sylvia's south portion. It was agreed that the Commission will work on the plantings near the fence then as weather permits thin out the brush in the back. John Kuhn said the brush could be left on site and the Town of Red Hook will pick it up. We are so pleased to have his cooperation to make clean-up fast and simple.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mill Rd. School Nature Area: *Eleanor Friery* noted that the Nature Area needs to be cleared out in the spring. Various members volunteered to help her out when she is available.

2. Volunteer Hours: *Chairman Cathy Michael* was reminded by the Tree City group to collect data on member's volunteer hours so they can use the data for their grant applications. Cathy made up a sheet for the members. They should contact her when they have these hours. *Dave Grover* noted that travel time to and back to a site is also counted.

3. Tree City Dinner: The annual Tree City Recognition Ceremony luncheon is Thursday, March 29th in Albany at a new location, the Marriott on Wolf Rd. Many of the members want to attend as there's always presenters, displays and a heartily delicious meal. It is also a chance to meet other municipalities and exchange ideas. Dave Grover suggested we take more photos of our group to submit for the Tree City's Slide Show. Everyone thought this was a good idea.

4. Tree Seedling Order: *Linda Keeling* presented the tree order for the Arbor Day Celebration event which is due March 23rd. The following packs of 10 will be ordered for a total of 100 seedlings at a cost of \$160 with pick-up at the Millbrook Home and Farm Center on Fri. Apr. 20th 9-6 and Sat. Apr. 9-12

- (20) *Evergreens:* Balsam Fir Transplants, Colorado Blue Spruce;
- (20) *Deciduous Trees:* Native Paper Birch, White Flowering Dogwood
- (30) *Deciduous Shrubs:* Arrowwood, Eastern Redbud, Silky Dogwood
- (20) *Nuts and Berries:* American Cranberry, Elderberry
- (10) *Flowering Pack:* Black Chokeberry, Elderberry, American Cranberry, Flowering Dogwood,
..... Juneberry

She reminded everyone if you sign up for the Arbor Day Foundation, take the plants as she did and we can use them for distribution. *Eleanor Friery* and *Cathy Michael* said they have been disappointed in the past because they were either not delivered, delivered at the wrong time or did not live.

MOTION: *Dave Grover* motioned to authorize the expenditure of \$160 for 100 tree seedlings, *Hop Michael* seconded, all agreed.

Linda Keeling reminded all that in the past donations covered the cost and we made some additional money.

Linda Keeling noted she will be presenting a talk about the Tree Commission at the Old Dutch Village Garden Club in March.

Adjournment:

Motion: *Dave Grover* motioned to adjourn the meeting, *Hop Michael* seconded and all agreed. The meeting ended at 7:47 pm.

Next Meeting: The next regularly scheduled meeting is **Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 7:00 pm** at the town hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary