

Town of Red Hook
Tree Preservation Commission
Minutes for March 15, 2022
APPROVED 5/17/22

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

Absent: Town Board Liaison Jacob Testa *Guests:* None

2. Location: Due to septic problems at the town hall we met in person at the Red Hook Community Center.

3. Purpose: This is the regular monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of the month. Due to Covid restrictions we were not meeting in person but rather corresponding through phones and emails.

4. Call to Order: *Chairman Cathy Michael* called the meeting at 7:05 pm and handed out the agenda.

Quote of the Month: “Come to the woods, for here is rest.” By John Muir. The Draft Minutes from 10-19-21 were previously approved.

5. Old Business: *Chairman Cathy Michael* informed the group that our budget has increased from \$2,500 to \$8,000. Everyone was delighted as there is much to be done and this will help buy, install and care for trees.

a. *RHCSD contact person:* Scott Rajczi is the new contact person at the school.

b. *High School Auditorium Project:* It was agreed to plant one tree by the auditorium with \$2,500 paid for by the Old Dutch Village Garden Club which will include a crimson maple and bench installation with a plaque. The school will dig the hole and the nursery will plant the tree which costs \$1,000. Dave Grover suggested a bench made from recycled materials at a cost of \$600 with a concrete base. *Chairman Cathy Michael* noted that Linda Lawson of the Garden Club had priced a bench at \$1600.

MOTION: Due to the increases in prices, *Doug Traudt* motioned to expend an additional \$500 if necessary from our budget and *Eleanor Friery* seconded and all agreed.

c. *Mill Road School Project*: The crabapples are very shabby looking. It was agreed by all that they would be cut and ground and another species replanted in the fall. *Hop Michael* spoke with Scott and the school was delighted to have the improvements. The school has no allocated budgeted funds so they are very happy to have our input.

d. *Tree Order (Augustine Nursery)*: Trees were ordered for Rec Park West planting in April for a total of \$2,800 for 13 trees. These are 15 gallon pots at \$250 each to include 3 red buds, 3 pink and 5 white *Cornus kousa* dogwood (milk way, cetoma), 2 river birch, and 2 tree lilac *Syringas* at \$200 each for the East Park parking lot replacements. John Kuhn wants to replace two trees by the pool parking lot as they were mowed down. Michele Decker will dig the holes again for us.

MOTION: *Hop Michael* made a motion to get the trees for Rec Park East. *Dave Grover* seconded and all agreed.

e. *Watering System*: It was agreed to spend up to \$200 for a collapsible 100 gallon watering bag with hose that would fit on the back of *Hop Michael's* truck bed. Using 5 gallon buckets was too heavy, hard on the back, messy and not convenient. This new system will make watering the trees easier and can be folded and put away for when not needed.

f. *Mill Road School Nature Trail Clean-up*: *Eleanor Friery* reported that Steve Hart cleared the trail of many downed trees and repaired the outdoor classroom area. The perimeter needs work. She will organize this sometime in the future.

Principal Dr. Brian Boyd is happy to have the poster contest back. Last year, there were 250 entries. This year is the 150th anniversary of Arbor Day. Tree cookies will be needed for about 125 – 140 first graders. *Eleanor* showed everyone the memo she distributes to the school each year.

The judging will be done by Tree Commission members at a luncheon hosted by *Eleanor Friery* at her house, noon on Monday, April 25th.

Eleanor Friery will contact the first and third grade teachers to see if they are interested in an outdoor instruction lesson.

Arbor Day awards will be handed out on Friday, April 29th. Twenty-one books were ordered, some were left-over from last year. *Chairman Cathy Michael* will announce the winners at the school. Photos will be taken.

6. New Business:

a. *Arbor Day Celebration, Sat. April 30th, 10 am – 2 pm.*

Supervisor Robert McKeon will read the Proclamation at 10 am.

The Library will participate with a make-a-craft and story book reading. *Cathy Michael's* neighbor, beekeeper Debbie Tuttle, will give a talk and demonstration on "Bees and Trees". *Hop Michael* will make bluebird houses from scrap wood at a price to move them for \$15.00 each. The Red Hook Community Center will be contacted to see if they want to participate, also. *Chairman Cathy Michael* and *Linda Keeling* will work together to finalize the plans.

Eleanor Friery will provide the tent and *Linda Keeling* will bring 3 tables. Brochures and games for kids will be made available. *Linda Keeling* will put the order in for the seedlings. A luncheon will be provided for the volunteers as usual.

b. *Potential New Member*: The minister at St. John's Reformed Church, *Alisha Riepma*, is interested in joining as a replacement for *Eleanor Friery*.

7. Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 7 pm, town hall.

8. Adjourned: 8:18 pm. Motioned by *Dave Grover*, seconded by *Doug Traudt*, all agreed.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary