

Town of Red Hook

Tree Preservation Commission

Minutes: April 17, 2018

APPROVED July 17, 2018

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

Absent: Dave Grover 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.

Call to Order: A quorum was present (6 out of 7). *Chairman Cathy Michael* called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. The Chairman handed out an agenda.

Quote of the month: **“Until you dig a hole, you plant a tree, you water it and make it survive, you haven’t done a thing. You are just talking.” by Wangari Maathai**

Minutes: The following minor corrections were noted:

1. Page 2, #4, Ph 3, L 5: Change “plant seedlings” to “help with the lessons”
2. Page 2, #1, L 2: Change “was” to “were”

Motion: *Hop Michael* motioned to accept the March 26, 2018 minutes as amended, *Doug Traudt* seconded, all agreed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Tree City Luncheon, Albany, Thursday, March 29th Follow-Up: Only *Cathy Michael, Hop Michael* and *Linda Keeling* were able to attend. There was some disappointment in that there were no vendor tables with free information, only the new poster was available along with the winning child poster. The food was delicious as usual. The presentations were very informative as we learned about the invasive Spotted Lantern Fly that invades with thousands covering the bark of the Ailanthus tree. It is unsightly and the droppings are annoying. Our goal has been to remove Ailanthus, especially along Pitcher Lane’s tree planting site.

2. Outreach, Old Dutch Village Garden Club: *Cathy Michael* and *Linda Keeling* gave a presentation to the Garden Club on April 12th. The information was well received. Now Garden Club members know how the Tree Commission got started, our mission, Forestry Management Plan, completed and new projects, Memorial Tree Program and the 4/28 Arbor Day Celebration with free seedlings available. We are hoping they will make a donation for purchasing future trees. Garden Club Members inquired as to the cost which is from \$75 to \$150 depending on the species and size.

3. Tree Order: *Chairman Cathy Michael* reported the trees will arrive on Tuesday, April 24th at 7 am. She and *Hop Michael* will be there to receive them at the Village maintenance area like in the past. The Village ordered 8 trees and we have 13 coming (5 Quercus heritage (oak), 4 Sugar maples and 4 Red Maples).

4. Hole Digging: Volunteer *Michelle Decker* plans on digging the holes on Friday, April 27th for our group and Village Green as it is efficient of her time. Dig Safe will be contacted ahead of the time by *Hop Michael*. *Doug Traudt* offered to dig some holes ahead of that time in order to start planting. The holes are all staked out, 8 on the north side and 5 on the south side. Each hole takes about 30 minutes to plant and it would take too long to complete in one day.

5. Arbor Day: Saturday, April 28th: *Brent Kovalchik* of Village Green indicated they will have 10-15 people and with our volunteers *Chairman Cathy Michael* ordered from Griff's for about 30 people. There will be wraps, salads, munchies and drinks. *Hop Michael* talked to *Barry Ramidge* of the Rotary as they want to plant the trees. Town Clerk *Sue McCann* will be helping with the set-up arrangements. *Eleanor Friery* will bring her tent and chairs. *Linda Keeling* will bring 3 tables, 4 bulletin boards and the 100 plus seedlings sorted and labeled for distribution to the public. *Cathy Michael* will bring the banner and she will get more copies of the tree planting manual booklet. *Codie Hay* will bring his climbing gear to demonstrate its use. *Doug Traudt* will cut, sand and drill holes for about 200 tree cookie necklaces. *Eleanor Friery* will prepare the cookie necklaces at home. *Chairman Cathy Michael* took the winning table basket from the Albany luncheon and gave it to *Nancy Guski* to add additional items for the raffle basket.

The Poster Contest submissions are due Friday, April 20th. Again, *Eleanor Friery* has graciously offered to host her annual luncheon and poster judging at her house.

Nature Trail: Reminder: volunteers *Hop Michael*, *Codie Hay* and *Doug Traudt* scheduled the chain saw work party for Sat. April 21st at 9:00 am at the Mill Road Elementary School.

Sometime 13 bags of mulch (shredded cedar) will need to be purchased from Agway.

Chairman Cathy Michael reported Supervisor *McKeon* has agreed to read the Proclamation at our event at 10 am. She sent out a news release to several newspapers and *Sue McCann* posted it on the town's website.

“The Town of Red Hook will be celebrating its 12th year as a Tree City at its Arbor Day Celebration on Saturday, April 28th from 10:00 AM till 2:00 PM. Please join us at the town building, located at 7340 S Broadway, for the reading of the Arbor Day proclamation by Supervisor Robert McKeon, the raising of the new Tree City flag, the dedication of a memorial tree to Betty Mae Van Parys and a demonstration of tree climbing gear by Codie Hay. There will be free tree seedlings and educational material and a raffle basket. The Red Hook Public Library will be there with tree themed books and a hands-on activity. And last but not least, members of the tree committee and Rotary Club will be planting thirteen trees on Pitcher Lane. (The Rotary Club has adopted the cost of five trees).”

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

10:00 AM- reading of the Arbor Day Proclamation

10:10 AM- raising of the new Tree City flag

10:30 AM- dedication of the Betty Mae Van Parys memorial tree

11:00 AM- tree planting on Pitcher Lane and presentation of Rotary Club check to Tree Commission”

6. Betty Mae Van Parys Memorial Plaque: *Chairman Cathy Michael* said she contacted *Chris* from the local Awards Shop and it is ready.

7. Tree City Signs: *Chairman Cathy Michael and Hop Michael* placed the 12 year stickers on the signs. There was a question about the Rt. 199 East sign that was reported down previously. *Doug Traudt* said he and his son Ryan repaired and pounded the sign in. That was a nice surprise and the group thanked him profusely for taking care of the problem.

8. Tree Seedlings: *Linda Keeling* will pick up the 100 seedlings from Millbrook Home and Farm Center on Friday, April 20th.

9. Label Sticks: *Cathy and Hop Michael* will label the sticks so everyone knows what goes in what hole. *Karen Cadorette* suggested mixing up the order of the trees to provide diversity and decrease the potential of diseases traveling to like species in close proximity. Everyone agreed. She offered some tree markers she just bought.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Nature Trail: Steve Hart helped to clean out the Nature Trail and he made outdoor benches on Easter Sunday. The perimeter still needs work. She needs holes dug.

Eleanore Friery will meet with the 3rd grade teachers Wednesday, April 25th and *Cathy Michael* will take the pictures on Friday, April 27th of the poster winners. She meets with the 1st graders on the 27th.

Adjournment: 7:45 pm

Motion: *Codie Hay* motioned to adjourn the meeting, *Doug Traudt* seconded and all agreed.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting is confirmed for **Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at 7:00 pm** at the town hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary