

Town of Red Hook
Tree Preservation Commission
Minutes: July 17, 2018
APPROVED 9-18-18

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

Absent: Codie Hay, 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. This was a non-regular date change.

Call to Order: A quorum was not met (6 out of 7). *Chairman Cathy Michael* called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. The Chairman handed out an agenda.

Quote of the month: **“In nature, nothing is perfect and everything is perfect. Trees can be contorted, bent in weird ways, and they’re still beautiful.”** By Alice Walker

Minutes: The following minor corrections for May 23, 2018 were noted:

1. Page 2 #5, L1: Add in “about”
2. Page 2, New Business #2: change “personal hand-made” to “Thank You”.

Motion: The revised Minutes from April 17, 2018 were accepted by *Dave Grover* and seconded by *Hop Michael*, all agreed.

Motion: *Eleanor Friery* made a motion to accept the May 23, 2018 as corrected, *Dave Grover* seconded, all agreed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Pitcher Lane Update: *Hop Michael* gave a report on the health of the trees, staking, removals, future clean-up and planting. There are a total of 17 trees, 4 last fall and 13 this past Spring. He water 3 times per week and Tim Lynch of Rotary watered 1 time per week and did a nice job cleaning out the watering wells. There was some woodchuck damage on several trees so he put plastic wraps around them. Tim applied a deer repellent on 6 trees and there’s no further damage. Rotary will donate another 5 trees for the fall. In November and December we will be prepping the site area for future plantings. There is a snag tree on the south side. He spoke with Theresa Burke, Hwy Supt. and Ricky, Hwy Asst. It is considered a dangerous tree which the Hwy. Dept. will remove. There is still an Ailanthus and stumps to be worked on.

2. Devereaux Way: *Hop Michael* reported they are all alive. The fringed trees were pruned, acidified the soil, added 10-10-10 fertilizer to the Tatarian maple and other trees. The hawthorn tree looks terrific.

3. Bio-Blitz Update: Earlier *Eleanor Friery* explained an additional cost of \$128 for books including supplies for wooden stakes, chicken wire, soil, etc. which was taken from our budget.

Nancy Guski and *Eleanor Friery* met with 10 groups of third grade students over the course of two mornings on June 6th and 7th. The dates were changed from the 5th and 6th because of predicted rain. Once again, the student groups worked in teams to identify a Mystery Tree and estimate its age.

The lessons focused on deciduous and conifer trees, different leaf types and bark that were in the Nature Area. Fortunately, the outdoor classroom was once again ready for use. Mr. Perry Sheldon, the school grounds superintendent, at *Eleanor's* request, had a custodian mow between the seedlings on the Nature Trail perimeter since the weeds were taking over.

Eleanor Friery and *Nancy Guski* received lovely thank you notes from the 3rd grade teachers and two miniature rose plants.

All the winning Arbor Day posters were returned to the students along with a short note of thanks.

4. Tree Care Manuals: *Chairman Cathy Michael* inventoried what manuals we have on hand and determined if we need more we can copy more as they are from the US Dept. of Agriculture which distributes them freely to the public. It was suggested to print 50 to have for Arbor Day and when trees are planted. *Chairman Cathy Michael* might call the Ag Dept. first to see if they will send more before she expends money for reprinting.

5. Thank You Cards Update: *Chairman Cathy Michael* reported there was no update.

6. Barrytown Triangle Tree Planting Date: *Dave Grover* and *Hop Michael* reported they made contact with the County Highway Commissioner Bob Balkind. The community must mow, clean the leaves. The Deputy Commissioner met with citizen co-coordinator, *Sheva Fruitman*. The red maple tree was purchased from *Adam's*. It will get to be 40-50 feet and spread 30-40 feet. They must mow and water the tree. The County wants the agreement in writing. The Tree Commission brokered the 80 x 80 ft. planting location approval and consulted on the tree selection. The neighbors had planted daylilies but they got mowed down by the County workers.

7. Fall Planting: At the end of October, 5 trees will be added on Pitcher Lane and \$500 paid for by the Rotary. A tree will be planted at *Conway's* to honor their 40th Anniversary. A dogwood will be planted at the Rec Park for a total of 7 trees.

8. Other: none

NEW BUSINESS

1. Hardscrabble Day Participation: The pros and cons were discussed. It was felt that unless we were to get a prominent location like our former spot at *Baright's* Old Telephone building or the Library it was not worth our time. We get more participation from the public during our Arbor Day Celebration.

2. Tree Order: *Chairman Cathy Michael* will order the 5 for Pitcher Lane, 1 for *Conway's* and 1 for the Rec Park. *Paula Schoonmaker* will tag onto our order with her own replacement tree order.

3. Red Church: *Hop Michael* said the Highway Department was digging out Ailanthus on the north border and found some cemetery stones. John Kuhn told Hop that the town will be applying for a grant for the Red Church property. *Hop Michael* and *Dave Grover* met in the morning and worked on the forsythia and limbed a pine branch over the building. The crabapples look good except one is leaning but it will not be replaced.

4. New Town Website: *Chairman Cathy Michael* received an email from Councilwoman Sarah Imboden. Each committee can have its own page. Discussion focused on who might be trained to do this and maintain the updates and what might be included on the page. Some suggestions were the Tree Ordinance, Forestry Management Plan, the list of Commemorative Trees, Tree City meaning, the total number of trees planted and their locations, minutes, contact persons, etc. *Linda Keeling* felt that at least two people should consult and present to the group before changing the website information. She also felt that relying on members to do this over time is not practical as members move on. She fears the proposed system of Committee responsibility will fail over time.

Linda asked Eleanor for Melissa Levy's email address so she can be kept up-to-date with our progress.

Adjournment: 8:05 pm

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

Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting is confirmed for **Tuesday, August 21, 2018 at 7:00 pm** at the town hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary