

Town of Red Hook  
**Tree Preservation Commission**  
**Minutes for October 15, 2019**  
**Approved 11/19/19**

**Attendance:** Chairman Cathy Michael, George (Hop) Michael, Karen Cadorette, Eleanor Friery, Doug Traudt, 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:** There was a quorum (6 out of 7). *Chairman Cathy Michael* called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. The Chairman handed out an agenda.

*Quote of the month:* **“The wonder is that we can see these trees and not wonder more.” Ralph Waldo Emerson**

**Minutes:** Sept. 17, 2019 Corrections / Additions

1. P.2, #4, L5: add “d” to “charge”
2. P.2, #2, L3: remove “s” from “requires”
3. P.2, #4, L2: italicize “Prunus accolade”

**Motion:** *Hop Michael* motioned to accept the minutes from September as corrected, *Doug Traudt* seconded, all agreed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Rec Park Sign Planting:** *Hop Michael* reported John Kuhn said his people will clean-up the area.
2. **Round-up Use on State Highway, Rt. 9:** *Chairman Cathy Michael* received an email response from DEC employee Terry Laibach dated 9/18 which she read regarding pest management and DOT. The Regional DOT person to contact is Chuck Walters. *Hop Michael* will contact him. Members felt DEC is contradicting its mandate to keep pesticides away from streams and other water bodies. Members want to know what product they are spraying. *Eleanor Friery* will compose a letter and send it to the Tree members for review.
3. **Linden Avenue School Trees Concern from Superintendent Paul Finch:** Contact was made with Paul Finch and we were instructed to make an appointment with the grounds person, Perry Sheldon. The Tree Commission can provide a list of diversified species but it is really the Village Green’s territorial concern. Brent Kavalchik from the village will be contacted.
4. **Mill Road School Nature Trail Clean-up:** The past clean-up on October 12<sup>th</sup> was successful but there is still more to do. Members will gather at the Nature Trail on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.

**5. Suncommon Update:** *Chairman Cathy Michael* received an email from their representative. They have not committed to purchasing a tree but they are very willing to assist in planting trees. We potentially could use their help in the spring.

**6. Tree Order from Schichtel's:** The delivery will be either Wed. Nov.6<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon or Thurs. Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> in the morning. *Karen Cadorette* has 12 trees coming on the trailer and we have two so she offered to pick them up. The invoice said shipping Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> but this is a code for bare root trees. *Hop Michael* and *David Grover* will hand dig the holes for the trees for Pitcher Lane on Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> before the week of planting. The Village and the Town tree committees will plant then meet for a luncheon at town hall. The Village Green will make contact with *Linda Keeling* to formalize the plans. It is their turn to purchase the food and refreshments for the volunteers.

**7. Tree Supports Removal Update:** The cables are down. *Hop Michael* said he and *Dave Grover* will pull out the stakes on South Broadway trees near the bank and Hardscrabble Plaza. *Karen Cadorette* said it is easier with a post puller that Integral is willing to lend him as the 40 stakes will go faster.

**8. Tree Committee Mail Update:** *Chairman Cathy Michael* apologized for not checking the mailbox that was filled. The \$400 check from Rotary was included from several months back. *Karen Cadorette* who is a member of Rotary thought the check was still good. Cathy turned the check over to the bookkeeper, Ann Conway, to be placed in our donation account.

**9. Rec Park West Tree Recommendations:** *Chairman Cathy Michael* contacted John Kuhn about what the Commission discussed. She has not heard back from him. Members noticed work has started and large dirt piles are being moved.

**10. Budget:** *Chairman Cathy Michael* said our \$261.93 was returned to our budget so we have about \$700 more in our budget. The Rotary money will go into the donations account. Eleanor Friery will be ordering books in November amounting to about \$250 to \$270 for the 2020 educational activities. She requested tree cookies for February / March. *Doug Traudt* and *Hop Michael* will do this again.

**11. Pitcher Lane:** *Codie Hay* and *Hop Michael* will check on the rotted maple tree after the clean-up on Saturday. Contact will be made with Ken Migliorelli and Theresa Burke about the take down of the large maple, grinding the stump and cleaning up the brush. Kenny wants the salvageable outer wood.

That should finally deplete our budget. *Hop Michael* has been mowing around the trees with his own mower which takes him about 3 hours. We are forever grateful for his devoted efforts.

We had spent \$1724. We should have about \$1,000 left plus the donation money.

There was some discussion on possible future planting sites. The focus was on the oaks on Rockefeller Lane. *Doug Traudt* felt the bottom branches will die. *Hop Michael* is eager to trim them which would make them look better and help Ken Migliorelli when mowing under the trees. He will contact Norman Greig, Ken Migliorelli and Theresa Burke about the northern trees and their potential effectiveness with drifting snow. He would like to trim the trees on the south side which would not have an appreciable effect on snow drifting. Hop feels these trees have grown a lot and would look better after the lower limbs are cut this winter.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Discuss New Planting Sites:** *Hop Michael* reported the Rt. 9 North, Devereaux Way, trees are doing well overall. The Hawthorn is doing great and the Fringe trees are okay as they are probably on the northern extreme. They did flower this year. One of the maples has a frost crack but it is doing fine.

*Eleanor Friery* inquired about the phragmites located in the north basin. *Hop Michael* usually mows over them before they flower so he will weed whack it sometime soon.

**2. Red Church Pruning:** *Hop Michael* informed John Kuhn he will prune the crabapples sometime during the winter. *Doug Traudt* commented pileated woodpeckers like sassafras trees. *Codie Hays* commented that if enough tree bark is removed it could snap a tree. *Hop Michael* said his church had a sassafras tree milled. It smelled wonderful. Boat builders like it because as a light hardwood it bends easily.

**3. DEC Urban and Community Forestry Grant:** This grant is due Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm online. We can apply for up to \$50,000 with a 25% match. The Town Board is supportive of our efforts. This is a two year grant. Since we will be consulting with the town on this site and it is our intention to plant in this area when Pitcher Lane is finished. The group decided to attempt an application. *Chairman Cathy Michael* does not have a background in this area but *Linda Keeling* has done several successful tree grants so she was requested to orchestrate the details for a submission. Linda was agreeable.

*Karen Cadorette's* company is the subcontractor for planting the trees. There is an entire planting plan with a row of trees for the parking area. Residents want some shorter trees so the plan is being reconsidered to take into account the concerns of the neighbors. *Eleanor Friery* commented that the deer will eat the hydrangeas especially if one doesn't use deer repellants. She has witnessed them in her yard and in her Linden Avenue development. *Doug Traudt* commented that the deer are all over including the Village.

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

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm

**Next Meeting:** The next scheduled meeting is **Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 7:00 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary