

Town of Red Hook
Tree Preservation Commission

Minutes: April 20, 2010

Attendance: Chairperson Nancy Guski, Marcy Appell, Eleanor Friery, Rosemarie Zengen, and Karen Cadorette

Absent: none

Guest: Councilman Bill O’Neil, liaison

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

Call to Order: Chairperson Nancy Guski called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Minutes: Eleanor stated that on page 2, under item 7, Spring Planting, she noted that Steve Hart has upgraded the trail and Eleanor is working with Steve Hart on upgrading the trail guide. The poster contest ends on the 22nd and the prizes will be given out on Arbor Day. Rosemarie Zengen motioned to accept the minutes with the corrections and Eleanor seconded. All agreed.

Discussions:

1. Correspondence: none

2. Grants: Nancy Guski reported that we did not get the Fiskars grant. She felt our proposal was not “gardenerly” enough and was more suited to urban areas starting gardens. She has not heard back about the Captain Planet grant. Regarding the Urban Forestry grant, Chairman Guski inquired several times as to when the grant would come out and she has been told March and now it’s July. Linda Keeling still feels the grant will not materialize due to NYS’s fiscal difficulties.

3. Tree City Celebration, April 1: Nancy Guski and Linda Keeling went to the meeting in Albany for Region 3 groups. There were about 30 people in attendance with about half speakers. Nancy felt we learned some new things and was overall beneficial. It was held in the same location in the basement of the Holiday Inn Express. Both felt that they need to change the venue as the basement has no windows and is devoid of the Natural outdoor environment. It was like a cement jungle in a poorer part of town.

The Village of Red Hook got the tree city growth award; however, they were not represented there. This is our 4th year as a Tree City member. Bard College is one of the few colleges that is designated a tree campus. Marcy Appell asked about the Village tree group. Nancy explained that there is a Village Green Committee in the Village and our own Tree Commission which was an outgrowth of the town’s CAC. The two groups work together frequently. At this point Tivoli doesn’t have an active group. Linda Keeling noted that Tivoli planted 100 trees a few years ago

when they got a tree grant. Nancy said there are nearly 4000 communities involved in the tree program working with the Urban Forestry and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). RELEAF is also a part of this effort, also.

4. Spring Planting and Arbor Day: Eleanor met with all the 1st and 3rd grade teachers. They agreed to have a tree planted in their honor after they have read 4 tree books with the children. The arborist that works with Karen Cadorette's business will come in all day on Thursday. Eleanor meets with the classes and has a large paper model of a tree. This year she is meeting with the classes in the outdoor classroom that Steve Hart assembled. It is a U-shaped wooden seating area attached firmly to the ground. Eleanor speaks to the children about trees and the Tree Commission and how we want to protect them. She jokes with them sometimes.

Nancy got the trees which will be planted for every class. Eleanor has been digging the holes deeper this year as they lost many trees last year. The witch hazels and dogwoods are doing well. The children help plant the trees, water them then get a paper tag for around their neck saying "I love trees or I care for trees". The plantings are done around the perimeter of the Nature Trail near the playground. The tree seedlings have chicken wire around them to protect them from deer and mowing. Last year, the poster contest was for K to 3rd grade; this year, it is expanded to K to 5th grade. The prizes of books about trees were incredibly difficult to get this year. Nancy donated two Barbara Bash books. Members felt it was a lot of work on Eleanor's part but very well worth it. Nancy indicated that Eleanor is our liaison to the school. Not only does Eleanor spend lots of preparation time but she spends weeks in the school. Nancy felt as a former teacher at Mill Rd., Eleanor is well respected and a wonderful representative of the Tree Commission.

Eleanor spoke with Jill Lindquist of the Botstein Fund and we will get \$400 to fund the signs to upgrade the posts in the Nature Trail. A couple of bluebird houses will be funded by the Tree Commission. The tops of the signs will be \$35 to have the numeral on it with a small phrase identifying a tree. She is getting eight 4 x 4 pressure treated posts. This year, they will cement them into the ground to make it more difficult to pull out so as to discourage vandalism. Under Eleanor's 2 year program, Nancy indicated that the teachers are looking forward to planting trees in the future. Rosemarie Zengen suggested that a thank you note be sent to Jill Lindquist for the money support.

The Arbor Day Celebration will be Sat., May 1st, 10-12, at the Rec Park. We are giving away free tree seedlings and tree information while they last. A couple of trees were lost due to storm damage and two viburnums in the trail didn't survive. Five trees will be planted between the Pavilion and the Snack Bar to include 3 sugar thyme crabapple and 2 red oaks by the tennis court. The oaks should grow to 75 ft. Superintendent of Highways, Bucky Coon, will dig the holes. We are also very thankful to Director John Kuhn for caring for the trees. He continues to be extremely cooperative and helpful.

The Linden Ave. Middle School's Who Cares Environmental Club, under the direction of Mary Pat Budd, will help plant and replace shrubbery along the Sawkill. Howie Cowles cleaned up the walking trail and Jeff Tremper will help out.

Rosemarie Zengen contacted Charlie Callejo of Terry's Bakery and he will donate 100 tree cookies as he did last year.

Nancy contacted David Tiberio and a red oak will be planted on Rt. 9, the entrance to the Village, in front of his house. Discussion ensued regarding the white farm house that had several large trees removed. Members felt they should be encouraged to replant.

Nancy explained that now there are Tree City utility companies. National Grid is one. The hope is that Tree Committees educate the public about trees and their placements. A future tree inventory, funded by a grant, would help to identify hazardous trees.

Rosemarie Zengen felt that we should have apple juice along with the cookies. Rosemarie will man the table along with Marcy Appell. Nancy reserved the Pavilion with Sue McCann. Rose will get table clothes, napkins and cups. A donation box will be put out as we collected \$80 during Hardscrabble Day last year. Nancy created a tree scavenger hunt for the children with a map and “match the tree to the bird” in the tree. Nancy made posters to hang around town. Linda will do a press release, help plant 5 replacement trees near the Sawkill with the children and bring the ninebark plants she’s been tending since last year. Rosemarie suggested we raffle off the trees as well as ask for a donation. Bill O’Neil will announce our event at the town board meeting.

Nancy said she ordered 6 trees from Schicktal (sp.) for \$600 and when she got the invoice it was just \$450. She was delighted with the savings.

The vibernum near the Snack bar needs to be trimmed in the fall. Mulch should not be mixed in with the soil as it will draw nitrogen from the soil. It should just lie on top. It was felt that fertilizer tablets are not needed for the roots. Karen Cadorette said a root stimulator is fine. It is called Root Stim.

Nancy ordered the following: American cranberry, butterfly bush, forsythia, highbush blueberry, red-osier dogwood, silky dogwood, witch hazel, sugar maple, and white flowering dogwood for public distribution. The large trees will be delivered to the Village garage as the shared central location. Karen will use her truck to pick up the trees.

At 10 pm, we would like a proclamation read by a town official. Rose suggested we ask the town supervisor and give her first refusal then Bill would be willing to read it if necessary.

5. Announcement: April 27th, Technology and Trees, RELEAF, Somers, NY. No one seemed interested in attending as it is a busy time of the year.

6. Tree City Items: Again, we have received a flag, hat, 4 yrs. label for the signs and a tag for the plaque in the town’s hallway. Bill suggested putting a sign at the Rt. 9G multiple sign post. Rosemarie reminded all that we had wanted to have a sign at all four of the gateway entrances.

7. Commemorative Tree: Nancy said she has not forgotten about that. Rosemarie felt that we shouldn’t go with the Ken Giek proposal at the Lutheran cemetery due to the cost. People are eager to donate to a commemorative tree program but at a more affordable price. Linda noted that the Village’s program is for \$200 per tree. Rosemarie indicated that the Red Church would like to be more involved with our tree memorials. The program would not just be for those passing but to honor someone alive.

8. Town Tree: Eleanor inquired if we decided on a town tree. The National tree is the oak and the State tree is the maple. Everyone thought it would be a good idea to have a designated town tree. Rosemarie suggested the apple tree. Linda suggested voting for your favorite tree. More thought will be considered for the fall, perhaps for Hardscrabble Day whereby the community can cast their vote for their favorite tree.

Some discussion focused on the Bradford pear which is no longer suggested as a street tree as the Calgary and Aristocrat split easily. Nancy noted that the blooms smell badly.

Bill noted that the Town Board is very impressed with all that this group is doing.

Next Meeting: The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on May 18, 2010, 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Concluded: Rosemarie Zengen motioned to end the meeting and Marcy Appell seconded, all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary

Approved with corrections 5/18/10