

DRAFT

Town of Red Hook

Tree Preservation Commission

Minutes: November 15, 2011

Attendance: Chairperson Nancy Guski, Marcy Appell, and Linda Keeling, secretary

Absent: Rosemarie Zengen; Eleanor Friery; Karen Cadorette; Micki Strawinski, Liaison;

Guest: None

Location: Town Hall, Red Hook

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

Call to Order: Chairperson Nancy Guski called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Minutes: The draft minutes from October 18th, were read and discussed but could not be voted on due to a lack of a quorum.

Correspondence: Chairperson Nancy Guski wrote thank you letters to various groups that helped during the recent tree planting: Decker Construction: Michele dug the holes for the Village and the Town; Village Highway Department: unloaded trees onto the Village trailer and delivered them to the Rec Park to save time; Integral: two workers helped replant one tree carefully and set the others, along with some trimming. Nancy was so happy to be able to write on the Commission's new stationery. In addition, she was very grateful to have the expert help of the men from Integral as they taught us all about digging the hole at the outer edge at a 45 degree angle to accommodate the root flare.

Chairperson Nancy Guski inquired about the tree cutting in Tivoli at the mansion. Marcy Appell discussed the Conservation Easement process with Winnakee and Scenic Hudson. Once an easement is granted, the land trust must monitor any activity occurring to that property and the owners must comply with the restrictions to the land. Winnakee gave permission for the limited tree and bush cutting to provide a viewshed for the new owner. Nancy was relieved to know that the land trusts are responsible for overseeing the properties and the trees on them. She will relay this information to Supervisor Crane who initially alerted Nancy to the tree removals.

Marcy Appell noted that hurricane Irene took down a large limb from her Bradford pear tree and Nancy Guski noted that her huge maple suffered from many lost branches. She has many photo memories associated with the tree: birthdays, engagements, visiting friends.

Discussions:

Fall Planting: Fourteen small potted trees were planted by Nancy Guski and Linda Keeling on Friday, Nov. 4th from 9-11 am within the Wetland Walk, labeled and staked later by Nancy.

On Saturday, November 5th, various members and friends (Eleanor Friery, Ted Saad, Nancy Guski, Mary Pat Budd and Linda Keeling) met at 9:00 pm until about 11:00 pm at the Red Hook Recreation Park, to plant one white spruce and 4-2 inch diameter bare rooted Malus 'prairifire' crabapples. The Malus were ordered to replace 4 Malus that were previously vandalized.

The white spruce was balled and wired. Michele Decker instructed Nancy Guski on how it should be handled for the planting: clip the bottom near the hole, put in hole, cut burlap and fold back, lift off basket. The men from Integral followed the identical procedure. Nancy learned a lot from the professionals.

Afterwards a joint luncheon with the Village Green tree group was held at the town hall. Jeanne Duntz and Sue McCann and others helped put on a wonderful social feed of thanks.

Nancy will be ordering seedlings in the spring.

Urban Forestry Grant Update: We received the contract which needs to be reviewed and sent back to be finalized. Nancy Guski noted that Linda Stoddard was very helpful. We learned that the contract started October 11th so we were able to order some trees for a fall planting.

There is a need to focus on the Inventory Planning for the grant. Chairperson Nancy Guski talked to the Farm and Home Center representative about utilizing their SWAT team but they do not have funding for it and are applying for grants. They are hopeful that this funding will materialize in February.

Nancy thinks we might have to go out for bid as the project is \$5000. She will contact Debbie Marks. Discussion focused also on who might be able to implement the survey and data input. Marcy Appell and Nancy Guski thought Brenda Cagle might be used as a consultant but due to her new town board status there might be a conflict. Linda Keeling suggested Meg Crawford from Rhinebeck as they completed an inventory grant recently and there would not be any immediate perceived conflict. Perhaps Brenda could volunteer her expertise as an in-kind contribution for the grant.

Tree City Certification: Discussion focused on the possibility of applying for the Growth Award this year which is due Dec. 31. Chairperson Nancy Guski felt we could easily satisfy the 10 point areas needed. All agreed she should proceed with this.

Discussion focused on the DEC's spring awards and the poster contest. Due to the short time, it was felt the Commission could not get teachers and children interested in this activity at this time. It might be considered for next year. Nancy would like to discuss this with Eleanor Friery first.

New Business:

Town Board Meeting: On Dec. 12th the town officials will recognize the volunteers. Again, Chairperson Nancy Guski felt she could not select just one member but recognized all the various individual contributions from each and every one of her members, including the secretary, Linda Keeling, who pots up the seedlings and cares for them until the next planting time.

Adjournment: Chairperson Nancy Guski called an end to the meeting.

Concluded: The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Next Meeting: There will not be a meeting of the Tree Commission in December. Everyone is encouraged to attend the Dec. 12th town board meeting recognizing the volunteers.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary