

Town of Red Hook
Tree Preservation Commission
Minutes for July 19, 2022
APPROVED 8/16/22

1. Attendance: *Chairman Cathy Michael, George (Hop) Michael, Codie Hay, Doug Traudt, Eleanor Friery, Dave Grove, Karen Cadorette, Liaison Jacob Testa and secretary Linda Keeling*

Absent: *None*

Guests: *Alisha Riepma*

2. Call to Order: There were 7/7 in attendance for a quorum. Chairman Cathy Michael called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm and handed out an agenda.

Quote of the Month: **“When I Am Among the Trees”** by Mary Oliver

“... Around me the trees stir in their leaves
And call out, “Stay awhile.”
The light flows from their branches.

And they call again, “It’s simple.” They say,
“and you too have come
Into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled
With light, and to shine.”

Corrections:

1. p. 1: quote, last line, move “I” in front of would, last line.
2. p. 2: b: delete “Dug holes and deer fencing erected.” Add “Hop Michael straightened three and replaced the deer fencing”. Add “Maple” after crimson. Add “tree” before one.
3. p. 2: c: second line: add “es” to birch. Eliminate “that was potted” add in “are”.
4. p. 2: e: L 3: change “going” to “emailing it”.
5. p. 2: e: 1: after north add in “but #2 and #4 are having pleasing forms with spreading canopies.”

6. p. 3: d: L 2: spelling: “Katsura”.

p. 5: c: eliminate “failed to thrive” to “are not thriving but are hanging in there.”

MOTION: *Hop Michael* motioned to approve the Minutes from June 21, 2022 with corrections and *Doug Traudt* seconded, all approved.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Missing Tree City Sign: All attempts to find the old sign and metal post failed so the group agreed to buy a new sign at a cost of about \$65.

b. Nancy Guski plaque: The former plaque was located at town hall and turned over to *Chairman Cathy Michael*. The group discussed a possible location at the Highway Department’s lawn which would stand with other town member designations or a large tree at West Park.

c. Mill Road School Proposal: The proposal was sent to groundskeeper Scott at the school. He is busy but would like to meet with the group. Brush removal is a topic to be discussed with him.

d. New “Planted by... : sign: A new sign was ordered.

e. New Arbor Day Celebration sign: A new, sturdier wind resistant sign will be ordered as the former sign blew away and could not be found.

f. Trees at Rec Park West: The dogwoods are doing fine. *Hop Michael* watered 2 days. The river birch is dropping some leaves with the draught conditions. He will call John Kuhn to water the trees.

g. Tree Inventory Update: *Karen Cadorette* agreed to find the electronic old list and send it to the members via email. *Linda Keeling* suggested making contact with Brenda Cagle from the Village Green as she was involved in the data collection years ago. *Chairman Cathy Michael* will contact Forester George Profus for suggestions and to see if he has a NYS computer program that we could use. A possible training session is being explored. This is a very long and involved project. In the past Cornell College students helped with gathering and entering the data.

h. New Tree Board Member: *Chairman Cathy Michael* introduced *Alisha Riempa* who lives in Upper Red Hook, pastor at the St. John’s Reformed Church. She handed in a brief resume to the Town Board. *Eleanor Friery* will hand in a resignation but will remain involved on a limited basis.

i. **Hazardous Tree Rt. 199:** Doug Traudt said there is a hazardous tree on Rt. 199 east just after Elizabeth St. This is a NYS DOT responsibility and *Hop Michael* will contact Chuck Walters so the DOT can make an assessment.

4. **NEW BUSINESS:**

a. **Entrance to Rec Park West:** The Tree Commission would like some information on the potential signage. Members have noted often missing the entrance road. This area could use some better landscaping with trees.

b. **Budget:** It is about ½ used up.

c. **High School and Middle School Children Involvement:** *Linda Keeling* suggested making contact with the school children for their help planting and learning about the environment as a potential career choice.

d. **August Clean-Up:** With members doing some planting and trimming, there will be a need to clean-up waste branches and logs. *Hop Michael* will take the logs for the St. John's Reformed Church to potentially sell to support the cemetery needs. All agreed with this suggestion.

5. **Adjourned:** 7:40 pm. Motioned by Karen Cadorette, seconded by *Eleanor Friery*, all agreed.

6. **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, August 16 at 7 pm, town hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary