

Town of Red Hook  
**Tree Preservation Commission**  
**Minutes for August 16, 2022**  
**APPROVED 9/20/22**

**1. Attendance:** *Chairman Cathy Michael, George (Hop) Michael, Codie Hay, Dave Grover, Alisha Riepma, and Secretary Linda Keeling*

**Absent:** *Doug Traudt, Karen Cadorette and Liaison Jacob Testa*

**Guests:** *Eleanor Friery*

**2. Call to Order:** There were 5 out of 7 members in attendance for a quorum. Chairman Cathy Michael called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and handed out an agenda.

Quote of the Month: *“There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of Nature.”* By Rachel Carson

Corrections:

1. Typo: eliminate “a” before Hop Michael under i. Hazardous Tree Rt.199

**MOTION:** *Hop Michael* motioned to approve the Minutes from July 19, 2022 with a typo correction and *Codie Hay* seconded, all approved.

**3. OLD BUSINESS:**

**a. “Planted by....” Signs:** These were ordered and installed. One old sign is on Pitcher Lane and one new sign is at Rec Park West and one at Mill Road School next to the ginkgoes.

**b. New Tree City sign:** A new Tree City sign was not ordered as well as the Arbor Day Tree Sign. We generally get new ones every 5 years.

**c. New Arbor Day Celebration sign:** Not ordered as yet.

**d. Tree Inventory / George Profous:** Region 3 Forester George Profous called back *Chairman Cathy Michael*. He explained that the physical Inventory needs to be updated yearly. Cathy explained that we post our activities on our website. The Cornell Program of the past does not exist any longer. Tree Commissions must pay a qualified arborist /

forester. George indicated it was more important for densely populated cities whereby trees could fall down. *Hop Michael* and *Dave Grover* both thought we should work on what we have already. *Linda Keeling* noted that Pitcher Lane was on the original survey inventory so the group agreed to start on this road. Karen Cadorette had emailed the Inventory to all in late June. Cathy will email it again. Hop noted we took down several maples and a whole bunch of ailanthus. Cathy was concerned about how to use GPS. Linda suggested making contact with Bard College as they are a Tree City Campus and Village Green (Brenda Cagle or Brent Kavalchik) for assistance and/or instruction.

**e. Dead Ash Tree on East Market Street:** *Hop Michael* showed everyone a picture of the tree on his cell phone. He called the NYS DOT and talked with the town. He also tried contacting the local DOT without success. There are two trees on Rt.199 East near Echo Valley Rd. *Codie Hay* said he took trees down for the town in that area.

**f. Tree Watering:** *Hop Michael* reported on the status of the tree watering on Pitcher Lane and Rec Park West. He watered a lot before his vacation. He figures he applied 600 gallons of water. He fills up at Hapeman's Painting near St. John's Church. The ginkgo, dogwood and river birch are doing okay. *Hop* said the red buds we planted look great. He figured each tree got about 20 gallons of water.

**g. Mill Road School Project / Scott R.:** *Chairman Cathy Michael* talked to Scott about the proposal submission. He was very busy but will look at it soon. *Cathy* is waiting for a time to walk the property with him. *Hop Michael* noted there is a dead conifer in the bus area.

**h. Approve Resignation of Eleanor Friery:** *Chairman Cathy Michael* read *Eleanor Friery's* resignation which was approved with regrets as she has done a wonderful job with the school activities for Arbor Day and the Nature Trail. *Eleanor* previously said she will continue to order books for us and train others.

**Motion:** *Hop Michael* motioned to accept *Eleanor Friery's* resignation and *Dave Grover* seconded, all agreed.

**i. Welcome New Member Alisha Riepma:** *Alisha Riepma* was accepted by the Town Board as *Eleanor's* replacement. We all enthusiastically welcomed *Alisha* aboard.

**j.** *Dave Grover* mentioned an online "Tree Survey" 4.0 that we might want to look into.

**k.** There was some discussion about our Budget. *Linda Keeling* suggested talking to Theresa Burke to see what is in her budget for taking down trees. *Hop Michael* noted that the Village has a bigger budget which takes down many more trees than we do.

*Linda* explained how the Village Green came to be. The Village hired a tree cutter who took down large trees indiscriminately and sold the wood. The Village people got very upset and the Village Green was formed in 2002.

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. Fall Tree Order:** Members were asked to input on the selection of trees to be ordered for the fall. *Chairman Cathy Michael* said we have a little under \$4000 to spend. She had emailed the Schichtel's catalogue to all. There was discussion of the various potential selections.

There was some discussion about planting a white oak at Rec Park West to replace Nancy Guski's tree that died. John Kuhn will need to be consulted. *Hop Michael* felt there is room along the pathway which we had permission to plant trees.

*Hop Michael* mentioned he talked with Ken Migliorelli who was eager to have trees planted along Rockefeller Lane. The north side seems doable as it doesn't have power lines.

*Chairman Cathy Michael* wants to put in an order for trees soon.

*Linda* brought in a tray of homegrown tomatoes for all to take which was appreciated.

**5. Adjourned:** The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm. Motioned by *Hop Michael*, seconded by *Codie Hay*, all agreed.

**6. Next Meeting:** Tuesday, September 19th at 7 pm, town hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary