

Town of Red Hook

DRAFT

Tree Preservation Commission

Minutes for May 17, 2022

1. Attendance, 5/7: *Chairman Cathy Michael, George (Hop) Michael, Codie Hay, Doug Traudt and Dave Grover.*

Absent: *Karen Cadorette, Eleanor Friery and Liaison Jacob Testa*

Guests: None

Note: Due to a confusion with emails received, the original meeting location at the Rec Park East pavilion was changed to the town hall. An invited guest, Alicia from St. John's Church, showed up at the Rec Park but did not attend the meeting. Apologies were expressed by phone. Hopefully, she will be able to attend the next meeting as a future potential replacement for Eleanor.

2. Call to Order: Chairman Cathy Michael called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and handed out an agenda.

Quote of the Month: "Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does." By William James

We did not meet on April 22, 2022. It was cancelled due to sewer construction work at the town hall.

MOTION: *Dave Grover* motioned to approve the Minutes from March 15, 2022 with corrections to the tree descriptions and Michele Decker's last name. *Hop Michael* seconded and all approved.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Tree planting at the high school (check from ODVGC): Hop Michael watered the tree and the school watered, also. The bench will be funded and selected by the Garden Club. Scott (Mill Rd. Head of Grounds) and the Superintendent of the School wanted the names of the volunteer planters to extend their thank you.

Chairman Cathy Michael took a picture of the volunteer planters and sent it to the school.

b. Tree planting at Rec Park West and pool parking lot (Rec Park East): Dave Grover, Hop Michael, Cathy Michael, Eleanor Friery and Linda Keeling helped to plant the replacement trees and new trees. Dave and Hop watered the trees. It takes about 30 minutes to plant, mulch and water the bare root trees. The watering per tree takes less time now.

c. New watering bag evaluation: The collapsible watering bag fits nicely on the tail end of Hop Michael's truck bed. It has a long flexible plastic pipe which delivers the water more efficiently. Everyone is very pleased with this system over using the back-breaking 5 gallon buckets whereby the water splashes out when driven.

d. Arbor Day Celebration (raffle, nesting boxes, library, bees, compost and luncheon): It was a big success being at the town hall's front lawn. All 10 bluebird houses sold at \$15.00 each. The raffle was successful with Adam Michael winning. The sign blew away and we are in search of it. The sign was up on Monday through Thursday but was gone on Friday. The Chairman will contact Superintendent of Highways Theresa Burke to see if someone found it and turned it in. Otherwise, we will invest in a new more substantial wind-tolerant sign. We should receive our 16 year stickers as a Tree City again. We need to find out what happened to our fourth roadway sign.

Codie Hay and *Eleanor Friery* gave school lessons at Mill Road and *Nancy Guski* read a story to the children.

e. Poster Contest – Eleanor Friery: The Poster Contest judging was done at Eleanor Friery's home luncheon with Chairman Cathy Michael, Linda Keeling and Nancy Guski in attendance. Participation was high this year by the teachers and students.

f. Left-over tree seedlings – Linda Keeling: There are still two buckets of trees left-over mostly bristly locust and northern bayberry. Linda knew she was going to have problems with the trees from Saratoga as they were 25 trees each kind. The other order is only 10 trees per kind. The white flowering dogwood is always sought after. So next year, she will try to order twice the amount. We took in \$303 overall and she sold the left-overs along with rhubarb and free seed potato at the Recycling Center on the next Saturday. She made \$105. So the total for the

two event days is **\$408**, enough to purchase two more trees. We probably had more volunteers than visitors which is fine. Everyone liked the beekeeper's display and interaction.

Some discussion occurred regarding whether or not to have our event in coordination with Apple Blossom Day. It was felt we would just blend into the event as we did in the past during a Hardscrabble Day event. It was felt having it at the town hall gives more visibility and importance to our themes.

g. Nature Walks – Eleanor Friery: The Mill Road staff has been cleaning up the downed trees but more needs to be done to make the area more functional.

h. Other: There was no additional subject items discussed.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Mill Road Project: *Hop Michael* had made contact with Mill Road about removing the old crab apple trees and replacing them with different types of trees. The school is delighted to have this done as they do not have a budget for this. Hop suggested waiting in removing them until after the fall as they are looking better. There are 5 trees with 2 of them being small in size.

Codie Hay suggested meeting at 7 pm this Thursday at Mill Road School to look over the potential site. He also volunteered to cut out shade trees deadwood.

Some discussion focused on tree types: Dawn Redwood is from China since 1941, ginkgo has no wildlife purpose but is good as a street tree, oak trees get caterpillars and willows need water and drop branches. *Dave Grover* suggested we consider the tree's pollination purpose for insects and birds.

b. Other fall planting projects: The group will consider other areas to plant in the fall.

c. Tree City Packet of 16 year stickers, flag and brass plaque: *Chairman Cathy Michael* informed the group that we received our 16th year stickers, flag and brass plaque. We had also received hand clippers with leather carrying cases since we did not meet for a luncheon in Albany last year due to the Covid problems.

d. Other: Pollinator Project – Linda Keeling: A Pollinator Project is being initiated by a small Village group located at the Red Hook Community Center. Their leader is Perry who gave a talk to the Garden Club. The idea is to give away seeds and plants to any Village persons willing to plant a small pocket pollinator garden.

Linda Keeling informed Perry that in order to give away Village financially supported materials, he would need to get the Town's support to form a partnership. This would also make getting grants more appealing.

Linda Keeling suggested we go to their informational meeting Sat., May 28th, 11 am-2 pm. The group wanted to send Linda to get the information and report back to the Tree Commission. She agreed to attend and find out more information.

Linda Keeling suggested the Rec Park be contacted to find out what their plans are for signage at Rec Park West. Many people pass by the entrance as there is no official signage. The few plantings seem abandoned without a plan. *Cathy Michael* said she wants us to put in a big order to Schichtel's or Augustine's for the fall. Trees are more difficult to come by and the price has risen sharply with additional shipping and handling costs. When appropriate, we try to order with the Village to save on these costs.

The trees planted on Pitcher Lane are looking great.

Linda Keeling brought attention to Abrahams Park in the Village and how lovely the tree plantings are now. She helped plant them years ago and is glad to see the improvements in growth.

Cathy Michael mentioned we need to think about a location for Nancy Guski's tree replacement.

Dave Grover asked what's left of our budget and *Chairman Cathy Michael* responded about \$4,000 or half.

Hop Michael suggested planting a tree at Mill Road where the pavilion is. We didn't get the grant to do this last year. There was a question as to whether this is a public place. *Linda Keeling* answered that the public uses the facility after school and weekends so it would qualify.

e. Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 21 at 7 pm, town hall.

Adjourned: 8:08 pm. Motioned by *Doug Traudt*, seconded by *Dave Grover*, all agreed.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary