

Town of Red Hook

DRAFT

**Tree Preservation Commission
Minutes for November 15, 2022**

I. Attendance: *Chairman Cathy Michael, George (Hop) Michael, Doug Traudt, Codie Hay, Dave Grover, Alisha Riepma, Liaison Jacob Testa and Secretary Linda Keeling*

Absent: *Karen Cadorette*

Guests: none

II. Call to Order: There were 6 out of 7 members in attendance for a quorum.

Chairman Cathy Michael called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm and handed out an agenda.

Quote of the Month: “If I knew I should die tomorrow, I would plant a tree today.”
by Stephen Girard

III. Minutes of 9/20/22 Corrections: There were no corrections or additions.

MOTION: *Hop Michael* motioned to approve the Minutes from October 20, 2022 and David Grover seconded, all approved.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Fall Tree Planting: Saturday, October 29th at 9:30 am, 15 trees in Rec Park West and one at St. John’s Church area.

A luncheon was hosted by the Village Tree Committee at the town hall. The gathering was smallish but the Village Mayor and her husband attended along with representatives of the Pollinator group from the Red Hook Community Center and representatives of our Tree Commission. It ended a half hour earlier than originally stated.

B. Tree inventory Update: There is no update at this time.

C. Tree City Sign Update: *Chairman Cathy Michael* indicated we have had no further correspondence or email information on erecting the sign.

D. Community and Sustainability Event, October 20th, Greig Farm, 5-6:30 pm:

Chairman Cathy Michael, Hop Michael and Linda Keeling attended. It was a chance to mingle with those interested in a sustainable future for the local environment. *Linda Keeling* explained that there were various idea sign-up sheets to offer your ideas to promote sustainability. Linda suggested community gardens and St. Margaret's Home because we have several dedicated trees there.

During the discussion, *Dave Grover* mentioned putting in benches at Rec Park West. Everyone thought that was a good idea.

Hop Michael thought John Kuhn may want our input on developing the thorough-fair between the two parks.

Linda Keeling expressed her opinion that Rec Park West desperately needs signage as many miss the entrance. Some discussion was on the potential connection between the Village Park and the Rec Parks. Some of the internal land is still in private ownership and the development is a Village Green issue.

E. Continuing Education Follow-Up: *Cathy and Hop Michael* hosted the four sessions offered through the Nassau County Cooperative Extension on Wednesdays from 7-8 pm with discussion afterwards via ZOOM.

The Following classes were attended:

#1. 11/2: *GIS Services and Other Technology to Support Fieldwork: All were in attendance: Cathy, Hop, Dave, Doug, Codie, Karen, Alisha and Linda (Popcorn)*

Generally the group felt overwhelmed by this presenter and did not get much real value from his technical presentation but may consult him in the future as questions arise.

#2. 11/9: *Innovations in Tree Planting: Cathy, Hop, Codie and Linda attended. (Cookies)*

The Michael's had a prior commitment so a recorded ZOOM meeting was rescheduled for **12/7**. This presenter had concrete photo descriptions. It was cut off before the end so Cathy will contact the Extension for the book he referenced. It generally reinforced the methodology we implement when planting. Structural soil can assist in making a confined space allowances for

more oxygen to promote root growth. Planting on lawns can produce dramatic greenery results.

#3. 11/23: *Tree Pests and Problems: BOLO in 2023:* Cathy, Hop, Aisha and Linda attended. (Wine, cheese and crackers, muffins)

The group felt they were able to get some good information on the problems and solutions for tree declines. The problem was the date, just the day before Thanksgiving, when some were not available.

#4. 11/30: *The American Chestnut Story:* Cathy, Hop Doug, Dave, Alisha and Linda attended. (Cookies)

We all liked this presenter and learned about the trials and tribulations of the Chestnut tree and other related species.

F. Application Tree City Renewal: The information was sent in by *Chairman Cathy Michael*. She also checked with Bookkeeper Ann Conway about our budget. We spent \$4127 and have \$3872 before paying for these new trees at a cost of about \$2000 along with other related purchases. So we will have used our allotted budget for this year.

Linda Keeling suggested putting an Informational Leaflet tied to the tree that will be taken down as she has seen other communities do to inform the public. *Chairman Cathy Michael* thought it was a good idea and she will investigate how it can be accomplished.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Webpage update: *Chairman Cathy Michael* is sending the information to the Town Clerk when additions are made regarding new tree lists, press releases, photos to be added and an updated Committee member list.

B. Projects for remainder of 2022: *Hop Michael* will talk to cooperative landowner farmer Ken Migliorelli about trees to be removed from the north side of Pitcher Lane. *Codie Hay* will take down a tree on Pitcher Lane. His work and Tree Commission members will depend on how much money is left in the budget. The stump can wait another year if necessary.

Cathy Michael and Linda Keeling attended a Dutchess County Cooperative Extension talk on the Spotted Lantern Fly at the Old Dutch Village Garden Club and showed the pictures to the Tree Commission members. The DCCE Presenter showed graphs of how they are spreading quickly and hitch rides on wood and motor vehicles. Tree of

Heaven and Ailanthus, as well as grape arbors, are the SLF's favorite place to lay their eggs and infect the trees and ground with their messy cast-offs. Possibly a fungicide may be developed in the future.

Hop Michael noted they are difficult to capture. If you look at them head-on they escape. It is better to look at them from the side. In Pennsylvania they are all over including the sidewalks.

Cathy Michael noted there are several developmental stages of this Asian infestation that originally came to the US on wood pallets, etc. The invasive trees like tree of heaven with its multiple aggressive rooting suckers attract these invasive insects. The best management is to eradicate this tree.

VI. Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Motion: *Hop Michael* motioned to adjourn the meeting, *Dave Grover* seconded, all agreed.

VII. Next Meeting:

There will NOT be a meeting in December.

The next regular meeting will be **January 17, 2023** at the town hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary