



Red Hook Village Green
Meeting Minutes – 4/22/10

Attendees:

Jen Melitski, Brenda Cagle, Brent Kovalchik, Dave Seymour & Frank Campagna

Open the Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm

Treasurer's Report

VG Checking acct: \$4164.64 Community Beautification: #8510.4 = \$2080.92 , Shade Tree #8560.4 = \$4402.32

OLD BUSINESS:

Flag Pole – Village Green will be purchasing a flag pole for the Tree City flag. Locations were discussed, and final determination of location will be made soon. Flag pole is estimated to cost about \$800.

Planting Day –

- ⊙ Spring planting day/Arbor Day celebration is Saturday, May 1, 2010. An email was sent out to get planters for planting day. Ramapo kids are not available. For future, Brent suggested contact Bard's international program for those students who need to do community service hours to help participate. Frank suggested contacting the RH High School Honor Society for those students who need to do community service hours as well.
- ⊙ We will be planting 19 trees throughout the Village. Brenda circulated the list of planting sites.
- ⊙ Schedule of Events: 9:00 am- meet at Abrahams Park for a memorial tree planting. 9:15-12:00 tree planting throughout the Village, 12:00 meet at Memorial park for tree planting, Mill Road 3-5 Poetry contest poetry reading, and the reading of the Proclamation. 12:30 Lunch at the Elmendorf

DEC Grant - Since we now have a contract number, we can begin submitting items to receive matching funds. Jen and Brenda met last week to discuss some of the tree maintenance things that can be utilized toward the grant. Jen will email Cindi to get copies of invoices to submit. Jen will also call Debra Gorka at the DEC to discuss the grant's end date.

Budget – a brief budget discussion took place to decide how some funds should be spent prior to the end of the fiscal year.



NEW BUSINESS:

Citizen Pruner info- It was suggested that each tree recipient receive information about tree pruning and maintenance. Brent suggested that we include information in the water bill that can be sent to all Village residents about tree pruning and maintenance with links to our VG website for more information and tree care. Jen will post the “Tree Owner’s Manual” on our website.

Arborist Report – James Cadorette, certified arborist, from Integral provided a report on several trees within the village. Here is his report:

Norway Maple on Church Street by Methodist Church : Viewed on 4/13/10.

24” Norway Maple in planting strip between sidewalk and paved roadway. Strip is 58” wide and about 30 feet in length. Tree is in declining condition.

Tree is leafing out poorly and later than other Norway Maples in the neighborhood.

There is electrical wire embedded in the trunk and is visible at 8’ to 17’ from the ground on the south side of the tree.

Crown dieback is 15% from a single leader that has died, in addition to tip dieback throughout the remaining canopy.

There is evidence of girdling root (not uncommon to Norway Maples) on the South, southwest and northeast sides of the base of the tree.

Sidewalk heaving is from a root that has grown beneath the sidewalk on the western side of the tree.

Conclusion: Briefly, in my opinion, there are not many reasons to believe that this tree will survive under any circumstance. My advice here would be to remove the tree; fix the sidewalk and replant with either a crabapple, ornamental cherry or tree that will not grow too tall or require more planting space than that being allowed.

Honeylocust on South Broadway in front of Golden Wok Restaurant. Viewed on 4/13/10.

10.5” Honeylocust in a planting area measuring 80 “ by 120” (6’-8” by 10’) – Brick Pavers allow considerable growth to occur, but are also heaving. Paved road is on the east side of the tree and concrete sidewalk is on the west side.



This is a young tree with an enormous potential to expend its energy on putting out root growth. It is not unusual to observe roots from a honeylocust extending 75 ' from the trunk of the tree. Due to this genetic characteristic a moderate amount of root excising can be tolerated. Avoid doing so much so that the tree would lose its stability. Additionally, pruning the roots will initiate a response from the tree that will begin more root growth. A solution for this location would be to install a root barrier at the time of any sidewalk repair being done. Grinding the sidewalk down would buy some time but only make the job that much more extensive and with a higher likelihood of tree failure if left too long in the future. The honeylocust to the north also has heaved up the surrounding bricks and the Village may want to address both trees at the same time.

Discussion about possibly spending some of the Village Green funds to take care of the sidewalks around the Golden Wok tree. More discussion to follow.

Motion to Close Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 27, 2010 at 7:00 PM at the Village Building.