



VILLAGE OF RHINEBECK

April 24, 2018

On March 29, 2018, Tree Commission Chairperson Meg Crawford and Village Clerk Pat Coon attended the Tree City USA, Tree Line USA, and Tree Campus USA Community Forestry Recognition Ceremony held in Albany New York . This event celebrated the commitment of 128 New York State Tree Cities, 8 Tree Lines, and 28 Tree Campuses for their commitment to the collective urban and community forest.

The Village of Rhinebeck received recognition for the 8th year of being a Tree City. Contributing to receiving this award, the village maintains a Tree Law which has been updated 12/4/2017 by the Village Board; the Tree Commission for planting 37 trees, pruning 64 trees and approving the removal of 16 trees in the Village; and also the Village Highway department contributes to the Village's Tree City designation by the continual removal of leaves and brush throughout the village and by recycling it back into mulch for the residents. Mayor Bassett observed Arbor Day with a proclamation on April 28, 2017.

Chair Meg Crawford and Clerk Coon were given the opportunity to discuss with other municipalities their successes, policies, and goals. Clerk Coon learned from other municipalities their practice of Memorial Tree Plantings, tree removal policies, and how they had organizations donating trees in honor of members.

Chair Meg Crawford and Clerk Coon learned from guest speakers Karen Emmerich, President of the NYS Urban Forestry Council. The Key Note speaker was Rob Cole, Forest Health Specialist NYS DOT who spoke on the Southern Pine Beetle which has been seen in the Albany Pine Barrens and Long Island. The Pine Beetle disrupts the flow of nutrients, killing the tree in typically 2-4 months. If anyone sees these or thinks their trees are affected, they should contact the NYS DEC office. Mr. Cole also spoke about Oak Wilt which is a disease which kills Oak trees. It is a fungus which blocks the flow of water and nutrients from the roots to the crown, causing the leaves to wilt and fall off, killing the tree within one month. If leaves on your Oak trees drop before late fall or early winter it is a sign of it, notify the NYS DEC if in question. No not prune Oak trees except in the dead of winter. It has been found to date in Glenville NY and on Long Island as well as areas of Pennsylvania. Preventive measures for spreading this and other diseases are to not move firewood out of the local. Mr. Cole also mentioned anyone who has swimming pools should check the filters for the Asian Long Horn Beetle which affects their major target of Maple trees but will also affect other trees. The Asian Long Horn Beetle is currently in the lower part of NYS and Massachusetts. For more information on these and other forestry pests please go the NYS DEC at www.dec.ny.gov

Other speakers included: Jim Maloney, Lead supervisor Distribution Forestry Central Division, National Grid; Liam Kavanagh, Deputy Commissioner NYC Parks; Brian Herrington, Deputy Mayor Village of Flower Hill and the Honorable Kathy Sheehan, Albany City Mayor.

Trees improve human health by combating climate change by contributing O₂ to the atmosphere and by removing CO₂, trees clean the air by removing particulate matter and pollutant gases, trees help prevent water pollution and soil erosion by breaking rainfall thus allowing the flow of water down the trunk and into the earth, trees reduce ultra-violet rays by about 50% by providing shade which also reduces the ambient temperature and lower energy costs by just planting three shade trees, trees also improve the surroundings with green ambience and which in turn helps to increase property values.



The Village Tree Commission will be planting 19 trees on April 28, 2018 in celebration of this year's Arbor Day. Volunteers are welcome this year, and every Spring and Fall to assist in planting trees in the Village. The Fall planting date will be November 3, 2018. If interested in helping, please contact Chairperson Meg Crawford at megcrawford37@gmail.com