



Minutes

DUMONT SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Inspection calendar for 2020

Jan	Kathy and Bill
Feb	Tom
Mar	Abbie
Apr	Ray
May	Kathy Z
Jun	Sally
Jul	Tanya
Aug	Tanya
Sept	Abbie
Oct	Mary
Nov	Rachel
Dec	Tara

12/21/2020

Monday, 7:30-9:00 pm ZOOM <https://attpm.zoom.us/j/9159594987>

Attending: Rachel Bunin, Ray Slaman, Abbie Slaman, Tom Fisichella, Tara Barker, Bill Zitelli, Tanya Zimmerman, Conor Gorman, Sally Tayeb

Call to Order 7:32pm Rachel/Tom

1. Review Prior Meeting Minutes Accepted Abbie/Ray

2. COVID 19 update

- Will most likely continue to meet remotely for the foreseeable future and wear masks for at least another year
- Conor update: 10 max together in Boro Hall per State guidelines
- For now, foreseeable future, the storage DSTC asked for in the new Borough Hall will be used for Food storage for the Dumont Food pantry. Need is great in Dumont and Bergen County.
- After pandemic and economy and food emergency gets better, DSTC will have a mailbox and storage space in new BH
- Dumont loaded food for 40 shelters last week by swim club

DSTC thanks Conor for being our excellent liaison in 2020. We hope he can continue to represent us to the Mayor and Council in 2021.

3. Discussion of homeowner issues/questions (if any)

- Sidewalk issue on Pershing
- 65 East Quackenbush sidewalk issue fixed but save tree
- Bedford and New Milford: have to remove tree b/c unsafe.
- 145 Virginia: Healthy Borough tree but impedes the visibility of homeowner. DSTC evaluation of tree was that it is healthy. Policy if tree deemed healthy, we allow removal by the homeowner if it impeded visibility so 'unsafe'. This is a big sweetgum tree. Homeowner can remove at own cost. However, homeowner wants boro to pay, going into appeals process- mayor and council. We have a system to uphold our evaluation and let homeowner appeal decisions.

4. Holiday activities wrap up Holiday concert was a great success. Zoom worked perfectly, thanks to Rebecca Slaman for technology. Thanks to Betsy Barone, Thad McGreggor, Dave Lang and Margie Derosso, and Anna Calev for amazing talent. Our performers joined via Facebook from the warmth of their own living rooms. Ray hosted the streaming event; tie in the Gazebo, talk about the good work of the DSTC, and spread holiday cheer that was so necessary at this particular time.

5. New Year activities; 2021

a. Green Team update/ grant process

- TD GreenSpace application; Rachel and Ray worked with the Millennium Grant writers and Mayor and Chris Tulley to apply for the \$20K TD Green Space & Arbor Day Grant. We identified (as required by grant) Honiss School and Vantage Health Systems as support partners. Grant will help with Sirossis park upgrades and tree planting in borough. Also new BH area so trees important to revitalize downtown area keeping it green. We are waiting for outcome.
- Tanya suggested that we can also use grant \$\$ if we get it for enhanced planting for Arbor Day.

B: other issues:

- Tom is looking into planting East Side of West Shore avenue
- Seminar for March 2021? Looking into a way to do a virtual seminar ideas:
 - Ask if we can broadcast any of the sessions from the NJ Tree Conference?
- School programs? Probably not until 2022

c. Walking tour curriculum: Rachel is working with Ray and Tom to develop this based on Tom's notes

6. Community outreach and communication

a. Website – www.dumontshadetree.org Tanya keeps it up to date. The website had a minor administrative change. Doesn't seem to really be substantive, but changed names of those who can manage it to "Administrator" Tanya handled this. Tanya offered to post information about Christmas tree recycling options and promoting good tree recycling habits.

b. Newsletter; Rachel reported that it was published end of year 2020. Tanya distributed it through Mail Chimp. All virtual this edition perhaps all future ones too?) It will probably publish Spring 2021 depending on what we can do from January- June.

c. social media: Abbie reported IG and FB growing. FB our best tool for community outreach at this point was the streaming technology for the Holiday Concert.

7. Arboretum

Need to cut/trim roses before break dormancy

a. Maintenance, inspections, general upkeep (monthly assignments)

From Tara: Overall the arboretum looks good.

A lot of small debris like cigar butts were picked up.

More flyers will be needed at the gazebo.

The red bud has a lot of bark coming off – looks like it is shedding.

I saw the 4 posts by the Lending library which is exciting.

b. New gardeners/volunteers

- The hawthorn has beautiful berries
- The library definitely has traffic/use

c. Brick installation / Brick sales -- 3 still in production. Hoping to get them soon (still soon)

d. Kathy Sheridan bench Will install a slab for spring

8. Tree Nursery –

a. Maintenance / weeding Mulching

- All trees are dormant
- Garden cart and water containers are there
- Mulching and weeding planned for spring
- Tom will adopt a redbud

c. Dedication will happen after the pandemic...

Regular Business

10. Annual activities; Arbor Day, Education, tree planting, other projects -TBD January meeting will discuss tree planting.

11. Tree Maintenance – moving inspection responsibility to DPW. Tree app
Tom reporting:

- All important issues are taken care of
- New residents (many moving in from NYC) not used to having trees... leaves, branches.

Kathy Romeo and DPW are handling all urgent matters DPW Superintendent: Anthony Schiraldi, Arborist Dennis Banoff

-
- At time of mtg, our building inspector was in quarantine for COVID-19
- . Challenging times
- Tom has stats for 2020
- Big spike in issues from 2019-2020

12. Tree permits

- Tanya requested that we move forward with permit requirements for private trees

13. Update from FOTST – meeting, fundraising, activities and projects

- Sally working on resolving SSL issue with GoDaddy for fotst.org so we can process brick orders safely online
- Rachel will contact DHS that we are in for scholarship

14. Other Open Business

15. Jan 11 2021 will be a remote ZOOM / dial meeting

Announcements:

THE DUMONT SHADE TREE COMMISSION (DSTC)
HAS COMPLIED WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT,
HAVING SENT NOTICE TO THE RECORD, RIDGEWOOD NEWS, FILED WITH THE MUNICIPAL CLERK
AND POSTED ON THE BOROUGH'S OFFICIAL BULLETIN BOARD.

ALL DUMONT RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME
TO ATTEND OPEN MEETINGS OF THE DSTC

BUY A BRICK, ENJOY THE GAZEBO
(At the Arboretum on West Shore Avenue)

For more information visit www.dumontshadetree.org