



Minutes

DUMONT SHADE TREE COMMISSION
1/11/2021

Inspection calendar for 2021

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

Monday, 7:30-9:00 pm
ZOOM

<https://attpm.zoom.us/j/9159594987>

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

Ray noted that Mary will be joining us again soon in coming months. Conflict on Mondays right now

Call to Order

1. Review Prior Meeting Minutes Ray S. accepted as written by Rachel Bunin

2. COVID 19 update Conor updated:

- Borough Hall: some people are going in, interior is done
- Police trailers need to be dismantled and area needs paving
- Uptick in COVID-19 numbers (statewide as well as in Dumont)
- Shared website to register w/ NJ to get vaccine
- February – April most like will continue w/ remote Zoom meetings
- Congratulations to Tanya her Commission was extended 5 years! Got her letter today.
- Sally waiting for her letter _probably in her mailbox ☺

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

- 107 Larch Ave: strip in yard has no owner listed, there are a few of these areas in town. Dead tree on this land needs to come down. Town trying to assess ownership or town will take care
- Tom F: gave historic possible explanation for these undesignated areas, had to do with area was a swamp before development so was used for drainage. not given to any property.
- Recap: Borough will take action to safeguard any property if landowner doesn't or cannot do so. Then a lien placed to recoup costs Issue with 107 Larch is there doesn't seem to be an owner. So, if verified, town will absorb cost of removing the dead tree
- Elm Street: a borough tree fell on a house on Christmas Day. DSTC has NO records of any prior complaints about this tree. Extensive search of all records doesn't show any emails or calls to borough. Responsibility rests with where tree lands, not begins
- To clarify: if a tree in yard A falls into Yard B. the Yard B owner assumes responsibility for the damage
- If tree is a KNOWN hazard that was not addressed, then source is liable
- 145 Virginia Avenue: wants to remove a 39" diameter healthy borough tree. Claims it hinders visibility from driveway corner of Howard. Ray did a thorough evaluation assessing visibility from all sides and determined that the tree does not exceed acceptable visibility. However, Ray through DSTC offered to let homeowner remove tree at homeowners' cost. Homeowner wants borough to pay to remove tree; since DSTC doesn't find tree to exceed visibility standards the case is now in appeal.

4. New Year activities; 2021

a. Seminar (March) – topics and speaker suggestions

- Seminar will be virtual
- Suggested date March 1, 2021
- Topic: Ray suggested 'climate change' as a topic

- We will try to get the Session from the NJ Tree Federation. If we can broadcast via FB and have a QA session after
 - Tanya, Rachel, Ray suggested we try to get Doug Tallamy based on his excellent NJ Tree presentation
 - <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/meet-ecologist-who-wants-unleash-wild-backyard-180974372/>
 - <https://www.humansandnature.org/doug-tallamy>
 - Abbie suggested trying to Tom Kimerrer—see DSTC twitter feed
 - www.Knps.org
- b. Green Team update/ grant process
- no word yet on the TD Green Space Arbor day grant: Conor will investigate status
- c. Tree labels for the Arboretum
- d. Walking tour curriculum
- Rachel, Tom, and Ray working on it
5. Community outreach and communication
- a. Website – www.dumontshadetree.org
- Date updates will be done by Tanya; also updates of Commissioners and the Calendar
 - Website for boro: dumontnj.gov: Ray asked Jeanene to update, Conor will follow-up for commissioners? Dates? Info?
- b. Newsletter—
- no new newsletter until spring, nothing to report
 - social media – Abbie reporting: 645 FB, 275 IG, 123 Twitter followers
 - Kathy Z doing a great job updating our FB page with popular content
 - Abbie reporting that the Twilight Holiday Concert had hundreds of interactions
6. Arboretum
- a. Maintenance, inspections, general upkeep (monthly assignments) Report from Zitellis
- no new deer damage
 - a few fir trees branches down
 - Some rose pruning—Bed 8 and Bed 2 need work
 - Kathy Parrish bench is in the location, slab to come in spring for permanent installation. James and Grace were informed that bench is in
 - Hornbeam has a broken branch
 - Missing 1 Audubon Society sign (one by bed 9 ok, but sign by Gazebo is gone. Maybe wind took it?)
 - Water feature still running. Ray will contact Rex for further winter instructions for protocol. Tome took some trash out of the feature
- b. New gardeners/volunteers
- NJ Forestry Association has a Zoom on Jan 21, 2021 7pm for those interested www.njforestry.org backyard forests
 - Meetings are every 3rd Thursday
 - We viewed Abbie's walking tour of Dumont from scouting days—a template for Arboretum walking tour?
 - Friends of Shade tree can meet to pick up branches? Better to have DPW do so or get a scouting troop
- c. Brick installation / Brick sales

- Sally just got the 3 bricks for installation. Last of the ones, no new orders. Ray and Tom will find a warmer day to install (Sand freezes so need warmer spell)

d. Kathy Sheridan bench

- Kathy Parrish bench is in the location, slab to come in spring for permanent installation. James and Grace were informed that bench is in

7. Tree Nursery – Veronica Greco

- Veronica not at meeting. Ray updated
- First tree ready for adoption; looking to send out trees in spring
- Tom F taking a tree
- Ray checks out the nursery. wind blew bottles and other items but all staying w/in fencing
- Joe Ullrich has trees to donate to nursery
- Tom got trees from Arbor Day foundation (why do they send saplings in winter??)
- Goals for nursery is to get trees into private property
- Dedication still to come when pandemic over
- Maintenance / weeding Mulching to be done in spring

Regular Business

8. Annual activities; Arbor Day, Education, tree planting, other projects

- We had a successful virtual arbor day 2020 so we can repeat virtual for 2021 to keep all safe
- Tanya: thankful we didn't order shopping bags for 2020. Will hold off until 2022.
- Tanya working on Art contest theme, will post virtually all entrants, have all students submit via email
- Tanya will contact BOE for permission. call for submission will be via email
- Adopt a tree flyer from 2008 Tom has 500+ copies. Seems a shame to discard, Rachel will review to see if still ok to distribute. flyer has old website and some capitalization issues. probably ok to keep and used still.

9. Tree Maintenance – 2020 statistics

- Tom: 2020 was higher number of requests, trending much higher than past years had 150-200 requests to inspect
- 2019 – 287 requests
- 2020 – 310 requests
- Permits: 2020 we lost too many trees:
- Ray reporting 2020 187 removal request permits 220 trees were removed from borough; 90% were healthy trees
- Ray working on policy ordinance w/ Council so we can limit healthy trees being removed

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

- Sally reporting: \$5037.13 in the bank
- FOTST.org website is up and secure, paid for 5 years through GoDaddy, any future issues w/ security will be on them to fix
- Hosting for 5 years was \$500.00
- Rachel reporting: contacted DHS guidance dept. We will have a scholarship again this year.
- Sally suggested audio component to Arboretum walking tour

11. Other Open Business

- Tara will inform Tree city USA of our accomplishments (ASAP) Ray to get her the report

Feb 8 2021 will be a remote ZOOM / dial meeting

Closed meeting 8:49pm Rachel/Tanya/ Tom

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

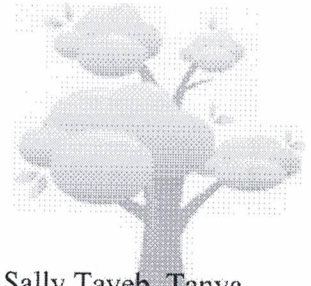
BUY A BRICK, ENJOY THE GAZEBO
(At the Arboretum on West Shore Avenue)

For more information visit www.dumontshadetree.org



MINUTES

DUMONT SHADE TREE COMMISSION
2/8/2021
Monday, 7:30-9 pm
Via Zoom, Dumont, NJ 07628



Attendees: Commissioners Rachel Bunin, Tom Fisichella, Abbie Slaman, Ray Slaman, Sally Tayeb, Tanya Zimmerman; Members at Large Kathy Zitelli, William Zitelli; Council Liaison Conor Gorman.

Call to Order at 7:34 p.m. by President Ray Slaman

1. Review Prior Meeting Minutes, motion to accept as written by Tom, seconded by Ray.
2. COVID 19 update: Conor Gorman shared that over 1 million New Jerseyans have received the vaccine and Bergen County is working hard to keep it rolling out. Things are looking hopeful. The municipal building will probably be occupied by March 2021. He is personally looking forward to getting some experience observing inspections and intends to sign up for the next available CORE training. As part of Dumont's Green Team, he will follow-up with possible grant opportunities.
3. President Ray Slaman stated he is thrilled to administer the official oath of allegiance to Commissioner Sally Tayeb and Commissioner Tanya Zimmerman, having been reappointed by the mayor for 5-year terms. Following the ceremony, Sally and Tanya will sign the oaths and they will be sent to the Borough Clerk for proper filing. Commissioners Tayeb and Zimmerman were heartily congratulated and thanked for their continued service.
4. Discussion of homeowner issues/questions – (1) heavy snows caused branches to fall on a homeowner's car. Ray Slaman advised them to contact their insurance company; (2) on Margaret Court, homeowner called about 2 trees. One tree was living part of a driveway, homeowner was advised to repair the driveway but leave the healthy tree alone. The second tree was close to a fire hydrant – the fire inspector was consulted, who inspected and determined that the tree would not impede the use of the hydrant and can stay. (3) a recurring request concerns branches near overhead wires. Branches within 10 feet of electric wires are referred to PSE&G. (4) Sally to Tom – please follow up inspection of tree at 110 Walsh.
5. Annual Seminar – our Shade Tree Nursery
 - a. Ray contacted NJ Tree Federation with syllabus and plan to conduct seminar, with arborists Rob Gillies and Joe Ulrich, with focus on how it was accomplished, what it means to our community, and what it will benefit Dumont in the future. We are hoping to be able to give CEUs for participation in our seminar. Dates will be one of the first 2 Saturdays, depending on the availability of our arborist experts. We will be in person at the nursery and live-streaming via StreamYard... will need many hands to gather content on-site at the nursery and assistance technically. Tom will make signs.
 - b. In addition, Ray is seeking coursework to complete a degree in forestry to receive certification as a Licensed Tree Expert (LTE).
 - c. Borough employees, volunteers and our council liaison are planning to attend the next CORE Training seminar.
 - d. Our Valentine's Day luncheon, which our volunteers provide for the DPW (not a shade tree budget expense) is scheduled for delivery from Italian Connection at 11:15 am on February 11th.
6. ARBOR DAY 2021 April 24
 - a. Tanya Zimmerman will begin reaching out through schools, program will be similar, poster contest with theme TBA; streamed ceremonies (StreamYard to Facebook this year) to reach out to many people in the community and beyond; need suggestions for Certificate of Merit; Arbor day tree TBA (our village elm and also coffeetree were lost in last summer's storm).
7. Community outreach and communication
 - a. Website – www.dumontshadetree.org

- b. Newsletter (Rachel will report next month), social media (Facebook 598 people like our page, 647 follow our page; Instagram 277 followers; Twitter 124 followers; YouTube 13 subscribers)
- 8. Arboretum – Tom: currently covered under fresh snow; DPW did plow the path after the 20” snow last week. Solar lights on the gazebo will be replaced. Ray has covered some of the tree trunks with deer protection. 3 new bricks will be installed when weather allows it. Bench to honor Kathy Sheridan is in place. A cement pad will be provided in the Spring.
- 9. Tree Nursery – All has been quiet in winter. Some deer have been eating young saplings, different means to protect against this are being planned.

Regular Business

- 10. Annual activities – Adopt-a-Tree: we don’t have many requests, so we can begin to promote for possible Spring planting.
- 11. Tree Maintenance – Tom Fisichella: e-mailed statistics report for 2020 (attached). To date 2021 there have been 30 requests, all have been inspected, some are waiting on action by DPW because of weather responsibilities. DPW Superintendent: Anthony Schiraldi, Arborist Dennis Banoff
- 12. Tree permits – Ray Slaman: 1000 homeowner trees have been removed since the ordinance was passed in 2013. There was extensive discussion on development of a tree removal ordinance to better reflect the seriousness of loss to the community when private trees are removed, and to create incentives to keep and plant trees in Dumont in keeping with DSTC’s mission.
- 13. FOTST – had their annual meeting. Sally had a list of native plants she is planning to grow from seeds for distribution into gardens in the Spring for the “Save the Monarchs” campaign, and wanted to know how many she should have available. Rachel Bunin reported that the FotST scholarship is available at DHS and the deadline for graduating seniors to have the applications with essays is March 19th.
- 14. **Other Open Business** – there being none Abbie moved to close the meeting, Tanya seconded.
- 15. March 15, 2021 will be a remote ZOOM / dial meeting

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Maintenance Update

Tom Fisichella, VP, DSTC

1st Quarter 2020

	2019	2020
Trees Trimmed	0	74
Trees Removed	0	19
Stump Removal	0	10
Removal permits issued	25	24
Maintenance Requests	40	41

2nd Quarter 2020

	2019	2020
Trees Trimmed	70	41 CV-19
Trees Removed	24	15 CV-19
Stump Removal	11	7 CV-19
Removal permits issued	41	49*
Maintenance Requests	88	88

3rd Quarter 2020

	2019	2020
Trees Trimmed	61	2 CV-19
Trees Removed	21	25 CV-19
Stump Removal	1	20 CV-19
Removal permits issued	52	62
Maintenance Requests	187	156

Maintenance Update

Tom Fisichella, VP, DSTC

4th Quarter 2020

	2019	2020
Trees Trimmed	12	64
Trees Removed	25	13
Stump Removal	0	26
Removal permits issued	30	51
Requests to Date	72	46

Year End Data 2020

	2019	2020
Trees Trimmed	123	129
Trees Removed	100	72
Stumps Removed	67	63
Removal permits issued	156	186*
Requests to Date	387**	331

CV-19 -- Due to the pandemic outbreak of COVID-19, all routine borough and shade tree activities were on hold until deemed safe by State and Local officials. Only emergencies were be addressed.

****7 inspections determined requests were to remove borough Trees. Permits saved these trees.***

***** Requests for maintenance have almost doubled in this year.***