



Minutes

DUMONT SHADE TREE COMMISSION

5/17/2021 Monday, 7:30-9:00 pm

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

AT THE GAZEBO

Attendance:

Rachel Bunin, Ray Slaman, Abbie Slaman, Tom Fisichella, Bill Zitelli, Tara Barker, Kathy Zitelli, Erin Calev, Jacqueline Corless, Sally Tayeb, Veronica Greco

Call to Order 7:35pm Rachel/Tom

1. Review Prior Meeting Minutes accepted

2. COVID 19 update –

Conor not in attendance but spoke with Ray to report:

No changes in Boro Hall. still closed to general public, available by appointment only. Dumont continues to follow Governor Murphy's orders for protocol. So DSTC will meet at the Gazebo for June and July.

August location TBD

DSTC will have space for storage at BH. Ray will go

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

Sidewalk issues: ultimately it is the Borough that determines what happens in each case w/ DSTC recommendations We advocate for the trees but understand sometimes the tree must go.

Gina's Field renovation: Ray is working with Borough to redesign the parking lot plan to save the trees. Original architect had trees down to pave lot, then new trees to be planted. Seemed not cost effective and bad to lose good trees. Ray offered a more sensible plan to keep trees as shade to the lot. People prefer to park in shade. Waiting for a redesign.

Sorosis Park: Community garden. Still waiting on town to move forward. No work on grant that was applied for in December for money to fund.

NJ Tree Federation says there is money. We need to get our Grant Writers on this. Because money is available for planting and maintenance of trees.

4. Commissioner seat vacancy

Mary Normoyle submitted and Ray Accepted her resignation as Commissioner. We thank her for her time and service and wish her well.

Billy Zitelli was nominated to fill the Commissioner spot,

There were no other nominations.

all present commissioners voted in favor of Billy's nomination. Ray will move nomination and present Billy as a commissioner to Mayor La Bruno.

5. Memorial tree planting - Memorial Park 6/5/21 is dedication ceremony.

Tree could not be planted on path b/c the path is for veterans. Joe Reissner heading this project in memory of classmate. Redbud tree (from Lupardi's) will be planted in the Park along Linden Avenue.

We hope that a member of DSTC can be there to represent the Shade Tree.

Shade Tree Memorial Tree for Covid 19 victims: suggested that this tree be planted at the new Borough Hall. A Dogwood is the NJ Memorial Tree. Ray will present idea to Borough

6. ARBOR DAY 2021 April 24 - recap
was a huge success.
memorial bench for Kathy Sheridan made it extra special.

Sally will order bricks for Certificate of Merit recipients: 2019 - Dave Miller, 2020 - Carole Stewart, 2021- Kathy Sheridan
Rachel and Abbie will push ad for more bricks. Place notices on FB and IG in hopes of getting more brick orders.
If order in by July 4th bricks will be in ground by Dumont Day

7. New Year activities; 2021
Monarch Butterfly Event: very excellent. All boxes w/ Milkweed were distributed. Many thanks to Daisy troop and Eliab Diaz troop leader. Extra special thanks to Sally Tayeb for nurturing all those milkweed plants in her home and basically, she is/was the engine behind the event

a. Twilight at the Gazebo (Erin Caley update)
She is organizing the talent. It's a popular event so many who have performed before want to perform again. Will be done safely but can be done at Gazebo given new Covid guidelines. We will insist on masks for those walking around. If sitting in a pod, w/ your 'group' mask can come off.
Four dates set: July 7,14,21,28
Regulars include: Thad McGregor, Dave and Margie, PD Brodie, Anna Caley
This is our 5th year, something to SING about!
Decided we should plan rain date in advance (maybe Thursday of that week, if it rains, cannot be August.

b. Dumont Day (?), other events – Still TBD

8. Community outreach and communication
a. Website – www.dumontshadetree.org
Abbie has been updating the page w/ Tanya and Rachel. Looking much better.
b. Newsletter: Rachel distributed a draft version at mtg. Will be all digital. Will publish Spring 2021 edition by 5/21/21? (that's the plan) Tanya will send out via email list.
c. Social media
Abbie reported 664 FB followers, 294 IG, 126 Twitter. FB is our best vehicle for community outreach. Used it for Butterfly event which was well attended. Will continue to do so

9. Arboretum
a. Maintenance, inspections, general upkeep
Kathy Z reported: some trees need pruning. Tom will get DPW on it: Silverbell, redbud, dogwood, old pear, swamp, white maple, river birch, dogwoods in beds 8 & 10
Need flyers for Gazebo. The current box leaks, Tom will get a new box for flyers
Need to turn pond/water feature on
the bench needs refinishing
the gazebo needs some work, refinishing
Kathy and Bill planted natural grasses at Kathy Sheridan bench (beautiful)

b. New gardeners/volunteers / mulch project
c. Brick installation / Brick sales

Will get 3 bricks that are still needed for Awards of Merit 2020, 2021, 2019
Will push for more sales on FB fore before July 4th so can be in by Dumont Day

d. Kathy Sheridan bench – maintenance and plantings

10. Tree Nursery – Veronica Greco

a. Maintenance / weeding

Veronica is putting in a lot of time, needs help w/ watering, going to be a hot summer, saplings don't make it, just too hot. A shame.

we need a permanent water source. Ray will contact Suez.

b. Mulching done

c. Spring and summer plans keep watering, ask for volunteers to help Veronica

11. Adopt-A-Tree 20 new trees planted. Taking requests for fall planting. Five of the cherry trees that were planted appear to be in shock. Ray will check this out.
need private adopters for nursery trees

Regular Business

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

Goal: get more young people involved in the Shade Tree

13. Tree Maintenance – statistics –

Tom Reporting: we are in good shape, some sidewalk issues,

NJ Tree conference. No word of virtual again. WE all agreed the virtual conference was great. Will keep us posted.

14. Tree permits – Ray: less this month, in April was a hard month, had to give up many good trees. Lost a mature tree on Hickory and Manhattan Terrace, new owners took tree down. He's working on ordinance that would make it more expensive to take down a healthy tree than a tree that is compromised.

Ray: Also taking Tree classes to become certified. Great for DSTC to have more knowledge within our ranks

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

Scholarship: No applicants this year. Will try again next year. Was a tough year for DHS.

Monarch Butterfly event was a huge success with Brownie/Daisy Troop at the Gazebo. Extra thanks to Sally Tayeb the engine behind this for all her hard work.

Also extra thanks to Eliab Diaz, troop leader and the scouts who helped out.

16. Other Open Business

17. June 21 2021 will be AT THE GAZEBO

Close meeting 8:59pm Abbie/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