



## AGENDA

### **DUMONT SHADE TREE COMMISSION 7/19/2021** **Monday, 7:30-9:00 pm AT THE GAZEBO**

Call to Order 7:30 pm Rachel/Tom

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	Kathy z.
Nov	Rachel
Dec	Tara

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

1. Review Prior Meeting Minutes Accepted as written

2. COVID 19 update by Conor Gorman

Situation is 'better' but troubling signs for reinfection rates rising b/c of Delta Variant. Borough Hall is open for business. However, we will continue to meet the DSTC outside as long as weather holds. Suggestion to move meeting to 7pm in September so more daylight. Will revisit in August meeting.

3. Discussion of homeowner issues/questions (if any) NONE at this meeting

4. This year activities; 2021

a. Twilight at the Gazebo (Erin Calev update)

concerts going well, had to Livestream from home because of Rain on 7/7. Was 100% Virtual 7/8 on Concert featuring: Jake Thistle and Tina La Rosa. Had many viewers. Thanks to Abbie Slaman for the Live Stream Technology and running the show. Thanks to P.D. Brody, Betsy Barone, George Magno at the Gazebo, they performed for our community at the 7/14 concert.

Had about 50 people at the Gazebo in addition to the FB live group.

Thanks to Phil Sosinski for Sound engineering on 7/21 and planned for 7/28.

Note: For concerts at Gazebo have to try to keep people from Parking around spots at Gazebo starting 24 hours prior to concert. Had some parked there on 7/14.

b. Rock the Block – (nursery raffle, outreach)

DSTC had a good presence. Was very well attended. DSTC will raffle a tree at 7/24 Rock the Block.

Discussion on best way to try to get the 'winner' to actually want a tree or have a place to plant a tree. Main object is to get the word out about planting trees, adopt-a-tree and nursery tree program.

c. Dumont Day will be 9/18/21.

Big day for DSTC. TBD handouts.

Maybe seed packets? Hang from trees to people can pick their seed packets. Bill and Abbie will investigate options.

Other ideas: with bag mandates going into effect in NJ, maybe sell reusable bags?

Bill will contact Lupardi's, we'll sell Mums again, a big seller and popular feature for DSTC. We will also raffle a Nursery tree. Abbie/Tanya will look into getting a new banner (ours is looking old and weathered)

5. Community outreach and communication

- a. Website – [www.dumontshadetree.org](http://www.dumontshadetree.org)
  - b. Newsletter- There will be a Fall publication that includes all summer activities: Concerts, Rock the Block, Adopt-a Tree updates and Nursery updates
  - c. social media
- Abbie reporting: FB: 624 LIKES, 684 Followers || IG: 309 followers || Twitter: 125 followers

## 6. Arboretum

- a. Maintenance, inspections, general upkeep
    - Bill Z: possible Van Vleck Gardens field trip... will have all interested meet there, date TBD
    - Tanya Reporting: Beds 2 & 4 need weeding (Bill Sent emails to gardeners)
    - Dogwood needs to be replaced
    - Dennis to cut limbs from the callery pear trees
    - Corkscrew willow barely hanging on. suggesting replacing w/ a Bald Cypress: Concern that it grows to 70', maybe too big for space
    - Construction staging for town roadwork at North end is very unsightly, unfortunately seems we are 'stuck with it' for at least another year.
    - Bill and Kathy sprayed for weeds at gazebo on bricks.
    - We have interest in purchasing the \$1500 bench... person is working with us toward making it happen.
  - b. New gardeners/volunteers / mulch project
- Always looking for more help at Nursery and Arboretum.

## c. Brick installation / Brick sales

total of 7 bricks on order to be installed before Dumont Day (hopefully)

## d. New memorial bench applications

## 7. Tree Nursery – Veronica Greco, new volunteers

- a. Installation of new water source
  - b. Maintenance / weeding / Mulching
    - Thanks to Pablo for volunteering for weeding and watering
    - Water peg board working well for watering schedule and tracking rain.
    - Still working on getting Suez to provide water source. May resort to getting 'water tanks' there is a used market we can tap into.
    - To get Suez to provide a water source is very expensive. Ray still looking for grant money to help out.
    - Reconfirmed and have to get word out the nursery trees are for private property. Whereas adopt a tree have to be on Borough land.
    - Thanks to Veronica Greco for work weeding
    - very rainy July so good for trees but also makes weeds grow so extra work needed to weed beds so trees can grow
  - c. Spring and summer plans
    - d. Trees will be ready for FALL NURSERY ADOPTIONS
    - i. Accepting names for limited planting
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- ## 8. Adopt-A-Tree Taking requests for fall planting

NJ Tree Conference will be in Cherry Hill NJ on 10/21-10/23/21. We will have a 'delegation' TBD.

## **Regular Business**

9. Annual activities; Education, tree planting, other projects

Ray Slaman is halfway through his training to become a licensed tree expert. Will greatly benefit the DSTC to have him certified and licensed on the commission.

10. Tree Maintenance – statistics

Tom Fisichella: trees doing well in town. Normal number and DPW can keep up. Dennis doing a great job trimming trees in town. Storms (we had several big ones in July) didn't take any town trees down. (Good news!)

A tree company asked for guidance from Ray on trimming a private heritage tree. Good news for us!

DPW Superintendent: Anthony Schiraldi, Arborist Dennis Banoff

11. Tree permits were at about 10/week, now down to 3-5/week so more manageable.

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

Stop and Shop Bag program is set up for August in Dumont and Emerson. WE have to get the word out.

FOTST is now registered with smile.amazon.com we get .5% of sales if purchase through that website.

Tell people to search for Friends of the Shade Tree Dumont. Price of items same.

WE will have (hopefully, current plan) the Wreath Event in December to raise scholarship money.

13. Other Open Business NONE

14. August 16 2021 originally to be a remote meeting will now be AT THE GAZEBO

Close 8:54pm BillZ/ Tanya

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For more information visit [www.dumontshadetree.org](http://www.dumontshadetree.org)