



Meeting Minutes

DUMONT SHADE TREE COMMISSION

12/18/23 Monday, 7:30 PM

Dumont Borough Hall 50 Washington Ave., Dumont, NJ

Call to Order 7:30pm Rachel Bunin/ Sasha Attanasio

In Attendance: Tanya Zimmerman, Rachel Bunin, Jackie Corless, Sasha Attanasio, Tom Fisichella, Veronica Greco, Wayne Cahilly, John Russell, Stephanie Petriello

1. Review and approve prior meeting minutes from Oct. 16, 2023- Rachel/Sasha approve no changes
2. Nov. 13 meeting, The Importance of Trees, presentation by Liz Stewart. DSTC earned 7 CEUs and has fulfilled the 2023 NJUCF CEU requirements. 12 attendees. "Leave the Leaves" initiative.
3. Fall Tree Planting: 5 Adopt-a-Trees planted Nov. 18. Thanks to Dennis Banoff for his donation of his personal time on a Sat. John, Wayne, Tanya Z, and Andrew Z, 3 hrs total, ea. Trees from Rosedale Nursery—<https://rosedalenurseries.com/> Rosedale Nurseries Inc. 51 Saw Mill River Rd, Hawthorne, NY 10532
4. NJ Tree Federation Annual Conference: Oct. 26 & 27, Cherry Hill, NJ Core Training --Report from John and Stephanie Very valuable conference
5. Davies Tree Survey—update, training was held virtually on Nov. 1. The web-based program, Treekeeper, is very inclusive and detailed. Not sure who is inputting data from the borough. Need to get DPW on board for data entry and updates. Volunteer Final hrs submitted to Boro Admin, Google Sheet submitted TOTAL 342.5 hrs! for Grant Reimbursement from NJ State.
6. Homeowner Issues/Borough Tree Issues, Tree Removals on List/Risk Assessment Plan and Inclusion of Sidewalk Remediation—Accepting Adopt-a-Tree applications for Spring 2024. Most will likely be from tree removals due to sidewalk issues. Planning for 10+ trees. Will need to get on the schedule with NJ Tree Foundation if we want to use their resources for planting.

Action item: can we buy our own trees? Perhaps from Rosedale Nurseries, Hawthorne NY.

Recent request for 92 Lexington, 1 removal in ROW and will accept 3 Adopt-a-Trees.

7. Monthly Arboretum Inspections—Dec., Tom can report.

FOTST Report: Garden beds—cleaned up & bulbs planted Nov. 4, will need volunteers for 2024. Really need a garden bed manager.

- Arboretum mostly in good shape
- All beds have number signs. DPW needs to remove the pile of debris by bed 9. Beds need caretakers, we need a manager. Some beds ok. Bed 9 not in good shape. Bed 7 also needs work, TLC.
- We need a spring cleanup date.
- Tom will sand the bench in the Spring

Tree signs need work- Rachel volunteered her husband David to engrave wood for signs. Some posts are removed, knocked over, Tom can fix. Tom will contact David to get info and wood for signs.

Veronica suggested we promote a Leave the Leaves Campaign. Along with “No MOW May”. Sasha suggested a social media campaign. John will bring up to Council (cannot have non-mowers getting citations)

Wreathmaking, Dec. 4–29 or 33 registered participants. Great turnout! Funds after expenses to be used for DHS scholarship (Rachel sent info to DHS- Terry at the guidance dept. Will finalize dates for submission in January)

Bricks—new vendor, BRICKS R US, have a few orders to place, next order deadline?

8. Meeting & activity dates submitted for 2024 Borough Calendar, need a location for Mon., Jan. 8 and Mon., Feb. 12. Stephanie offered her business space – Tutor’s Link-- on Grant Avenue for these 2 meetings.

Review additional dates/programs:

Arbor Day: discussed possibly Not having it in Arboretum if no room for additional trees. Tom says we still have space to plant, so will be at Arboretum for 2024.

Memorial Day Parade: Rachel will order the seed packs from American Meadows (same as 2023) we will use stickers w/ DSTC info. Native plants.

2024 NJ Shade Tree Federation Conference will be Oct. 17 & 18, Atlantic City—99th year!

Seminar Suggestions: Veronica- Topic: No Mow May and Leave the Leaves to educate public on benefits for birds, and insects and general environment benefits.

DSTC Liaison for 2024: TBD by Mayor Russell. Congratulations to John on his becoming our next Mayor!

9. Filing of forms for 2023, NJUCF and Tree City USA accreditation- Stephanie will follow up with Tara.

10. Commissioner Tom Fisichella Term 2023 expiration. Mayor Russell will reappoint him in 2024.

Meeting closed 9pm – Tom/Stephanie