



## DUMONT SHADE TREE COMMISSION meeting minutes 10/16/23

Monday, 7:30 PM | Dumont Borough Hall | 50 Washington Ave., Dumont, NJ

Call to Order: 7:35pm Rachel/Tom

Attending: Rachel Bunin, Tanya Zimmerman, Wayne Cahilly, Jackie Corless, Tara Barker, Tom Fisichella, Sasha Attanasio, Stephanie Petriello, Veronica Greco

1. Review and approve prior meeting minutes from Sept. 18, 2023- Approved Tom/Wayne
2. NJ Tree Federation Annual Conference: Oct. 26 & 27, Cherry Hill, NJ Registration for John and Stephanie—Borough has paid... Conflicts with Treekeeper Training. Need to reschedule Treekeeper Training.
3. Fall Tree Planting: Ray Slaman and GS Troop planted 5 oaks at Memorial on Oct. 8. All trees came from the tree nursery. Some trees still left. The Adopt-a-Tree program doesn't use those trees.
4. Other Fall Tree Planting— plant 4-6 Adopt-a-Trees, Nov. 11 tentative date. Considerations for supplier: native trees and availability. Will contact Lupardi's and Victorias. Also Rohslers (Allendale) and Rosedale Nursery, Hawthorne NY. Possible volunteer resources:

- Zoom with Ecopreneur Media, a volunteer assistance organization
- BCA Carbon Offset Project, volunteers from the Bergen Academies- Stephanie will Contact BCA student who lives in Dumont
- DPW will dig the holes
- Need assurances from homeowners they will care for newly planted trees
- Hoping for more than 4-6 this fall (we have the budget, let's use it!)

**-Arboretum cleanup day:** November 4, 2023: 10am at the Arboretum.

- Sat., Nov. 4—garden bed clean up at Arboretum, bulbs are ordered. Need volunteers.
- Need a flyer (Rachel will create) Try to get volunteers. Need to bring gloves, shovels, rakes. Try to get homeowners and business owners on West Shore to pitch in.
- Sasha will distribute flyers as needed to get volunteers for cleanup and planting

5. Shade Tree Annual Seminar, Nov. 13, Elks reserved, 7 PM, quick meeting, 7:30 pm program, speaker suggestion: Arborist Liz Stewart, presentation on the importance of trees

- Vote agreed to hire Liz Stewart- Will pay her fee out of DSTC budget: \$375
- Rachel will make a flyer ==Bio to come from Liz->Tanya->Rachel
- We will invite Closter Nature Center and Demarest Nature Center volunteers
- CEUs for attending
- We can expand topic to include community gardens as well as native tree discussions on how to protect the Borough canopy. A mix about general tree benefits and then more specifics about particular trees (e.g., beyond the typical ones, things like food, medicinal, other uses), could also

talk on tree care—a little beyond the basics of what's acceptable for defects in urban trees. Can earn CEUs, she will take care of submitting names to the state. Promote to other towns?

6. Davey Tree Survey—need update, hours have been submitted. Training dates?

- Training date (as of this meeting) set for 10/26 same day as NJ Federation Tree conference. We need to reschedule the training.
- Wayne needs to update the spreadsheet with his hours

7. Homeowner Issues/Borough Tree Issues, Tree Removals on List/Risk Assessment Plan

- System of reporting hazardous trees is not working properly. Some calls not being reported. Not sure where/why emails from reporting on dumontshadetree.org are not going where they should
- Need to speak with Cathy Romeo and find out how to ensure reporting
- Is DPW keeping a list of reported trees? Attended trees? Dave Shulman? We need to involve John Russell in this to get the system working again.
- Inclusion of Sidewalk Remediation has to be part of new plantings for boro trees removed

7. Budget Update—have details still have \$\$\$ so need to use it to plant trees in 2023. Must spend the money in 2023

8. Monthly Arboretum Inspections—Tanya...report

- Gazebo has been stained
- Sally has hand sander to give to Tom to sand and refinish wood bench
- Cleanup on 11/4 should clear out all non-native weeds
- Arboretum Water Feature Pump Update—Water feature issues. why water shut off? If off, Tom says pump needs to not be sitting in remaining water. Need to address this before freeze.

9. FOTST Report- None

10. Bricks—possible new vendor, BRICKS R US

- Rachel will call Written in Stone in Closter to get current information; we have been happy w/ their product, why change?
- We need to submit John Russell's brick (Award of Merit 2023)
- Any other bricks not submitted? Sally has blanks in her house

11. Wreathmaking, Event: Mon., Dec. 4, 7:30 PM, advertise starting Nov. 1-

- Tara's leading this event (again) she has some ribbons and decorations, always can use more
- Tara will buy more wire- will be reimbursed through FOTST budget
- Rachel making flyer for IG/FB etc. Sasha suggested Canva (Rachel will use that)
- Agree to preregistration, non-refundable \$25/pp
- No cap on people for now, Elks has room
- Need Sally to set up payment system through Friends website

12. Meeting & activity dates submitted for 2024 Borough Calendar

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.

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

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