

Dumont Shade Tree Commission meeting minutes
January 9th 2017, Dumont Senior Center, 7:30pm

Present-Tom Fisichella, Kathy Sheridan, Sally Tayeb, Rachel Bunin, Mike Kuhn on phone.

Guests- Guy Vogt, PSEG, Bill Zitelli, Kathy Zitelli, Louis DiPaolo, Council Liaison

Absent-Ray Slaman, Abbie Slaman

Kathy makes a motion to begin the meeting. Rachel seconds. The meeting begins at 7:33pm.

1. **Review prior meeting minutes**-Kathy will have them in February.
2. **Homeowner Issues**-none present. Rachel brings up 119 Beacon. The homeowner wonders if anyone has come to look at the tree and if there will be trimming done. Tom says the tree has been looked at and it is very overgrown. It is going to be trimmed and then looked at again in the spring. The loss of the truck has slowed some things down.
3. **Mary Winner Retirement**- Tom asks that everyone think of what we might want to do. We will discuss details in the future.
4. **5 year management plan**- It is confirmed approved and we need to make sure through Lou that Ron Farr will be paid with the grant that was secured for that purpose.
5. **Long term project discussion**-Tom brings up that any large long term projects will need a source of funding. He brings up the idea of developing Sirosis Park as a long term project. Kathy says one of our long term projects should be planting more and larger trees. This project is mentioned in our new 5 year plan. Sally would like to help homeowners planting trees on their private property. Tom says maybe medium trees. People seem to be afraid of large trees. He says he may have some white birches to give away. Bill Zitelli says Haworth has a tree farm on Valley Road and wonders if it is public. Maybe Dumont could find a place and have a tree farm. Tom would like to have a wall at the flag pole at the Arboretum and we could sell plaques on the blocks of the wall. He has a model of what it may look like. Tom also would like to do the "Kids Garden" program much like the Railroad program of a few years back maybe in June. Kathy says we need enough volunteers working on it. It is too hard when there is only a small group working on it. Sally has an idea of for a long term project of having a dogwood tree for each veteran from Dumont. Sally will sketch a map of a walkway and try to figure how many places there would be to plant. Louis brings up that he has received some literature from the tree foundation that was giving away trees.
6. **Community Outreach and Communication**
 - a. **Newsletter**- Rachel wants to make sure it is getting out. Mike says anyone with other emails should get them to him so he can update. Bill sent his gardener emails to Mike. Rachel says we should work to beef up the list. Rachel has not started the winter newsletter yet. She is taking a break.
 - b. **Website, Facebook and Instagram**- Rachel and Abbie are actively contributing. Rachel would like so it can be uploaded.
7. **Arboretum**
 - a. **Maintenance and Flowerbed update**- Bill Zitelli says it is winter and there is not much happening. He is going to set up a meeting for the Garden Volunteers.

- b. **Inspections and general upkeep**-Tom took down the Christmas decorations. He also says the bed sign numbers are almost done and ready for spring. Sally says there is still money left over for signage at the Arboretum. Tom says the signs are still being worked on. He says now there is a dwarf Alberta Spruce in bed #9. Bill and Kathy Zitelli says the Arboretum is doing well this winter. It was shoveled. There is some garbage. Ray and Tom are to have a meeting with Bill Ebanhack but it has been postponed.
 - c. **Bricks**- Kathy says a few orders have come in and she will be getting ready to send the order to Written in Stone.
8. **Events**- Winter Seminar Ray asked if anyone has any ideas. Kathy brings up possibly something about the drought if it can be made tree related.

REGULAR BUSINESS

- 9. **Maintenance**- Tom is working on the statistics for 2016. Guy says he has PSEG crews in Dumont doing some trimming of trees back from power lines. Tom says there is now an Arborist at the DPW and they will be going around town doing some elevating
- 10. **Update from FOTST**-Rachel says the scholarship form has been taken care of and is into the High School. Tom expresses his concern to take care of needed expenses before the Scholarship. Sally says there are not worries the FOTST has money. The Annual meeting will be January 18th at the Senior Center at 7:30.
- 11. **Adopt-a-tree** – Will we have a spring planting? We need a worthwhile number to do a planting. Rachel asks if we should work on a flier.

NEW BUSINESS- none

Kathy makes a motion to end the meeting. Mike seconds. Meeting ends at 8:57pm