

**Dumont Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**February 13<sup>th</sup> 2017 7:30pm Dumont Senior Center**

**Present-** Ray Slaman, Abbie Slaman, Tom Fisichella, Kathy Sheridan, Rachel Bunin, Mike Kuhn

**Guest-** Tanya Zimmerman, Kathy Zitelli, Bill Zitelli, Tara Barker, Louis Dipaolo, Council Liaison

**Rachel makes a motion to begin the meeting. Tom seconds. Meeting begins at 7:31.**

Ray introduces Tanya Zimmerman who is joining with the group and will be helping out with the Arbor Day Art Contest.

1. **Review Meeting Minutes-** Kathy has the December 2016 minutes done. Tom would like to add that the Garden program was tabled.  
**Ray proposes that with that one amendment the December 2016 meeting minutes should be accepted as written. Rachel 2nds. The minutes are accepted.**
2. **Homeowner Issues-** No Homeowners are present. Ray brings up 114 Sherwood Road. There is an issue of roots in sewer pipes. Ray will get a letter out. Tom brings up a few trees that were trimmed by PSEG and not trimmed well. He is going to talk with the homeowners and PSEG.
3. **DPW Luncheon-** It will be February 14<sup>th</sup>. Ray ordered sandwiches and salads and they will be dropped off for the lunch hour. Anyone who would like to drop off baked goods is welcome. Tara is dropping cookies and will drop off drinks as well.
4. **Arbor Day-** Arbor day will be celebrated Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup> this year. The Art Contest will be held and Tanya Zimmerman will handle it. Kathy will pass all the info of how it was done in past years. Kathy is going to handle the prizes for the art contest. Backpacks will be printed with sponsors and stuffed with some goodies as well as anything the sponsors may want to put in. All contest entrants will also receive a certificate and the winners will have a ribbon. Kathy and Tanya will reach out to Boy Scout Troops to do our flag ceremony. Ray is looking at a Little Leaf Linden as the Arbor Day Tree. It is a big tree. Tom says there is one at Larch and Beacon if anyone wants to see one. A 2017 Merit award winner is discussed and voted on. It will not be revealed until Arbor Day. FOTST will have a table with plants. They are having a meeting March 12<sup>th</sup> to start plantings. We will have snacks.
5. **Community outreach and communication-**
  - a. **Newsletter update-** Rachel has the winter newsletter out. Abbie will put it on the website.
  - b. **Social media-** Abbie and Rachel have been posting and we have quite a few followers. Abbie has been reposting YouTube videos. We would like to have Sally's video about the Arboretum put on the town website. Louis will follow thru.
  - c. **Partnerships with FOTST and local businesses and organizations** – Ray would like to develop relationships with other organizations in town. There is an African Violets club at Old North Church. Rachel mentions the women's club and the Library.
6. **Arboretum-**
  - a. **Help maintain the flower beds-** Bill met Judi Rainey and her daughter and they may be up for helping with a flower bed.

- b. **Maintenance, inspections-** It is Rachel's month for inspection. She says she needs a new password to get on the database. She says it is in general good condition. There was some ice on the path and very little trash. She said the milk carton bird houses should be removed. She said there was a large branch at bed 10 on bushes and she removed it. Ray said he has been updating the bulletin board keeping it updated so people will remain interested.
- c. **Bricks-** Kathy says she will be putting in an order for 10 bricks that will be ready for Arbor Day.

#### **7. Events update**

- a. **Annual Seminar-** Hackensack Watershed and a healthy forest, March 6<sup>th</sup> 7pm. River keeper will be our speaker. The seminar has been approved for 1ECU. Ray says get the word out and invite people. Ray will bring drinks. Tom will set up the coffee pot. Others can bring snacks.
- b. **Summer series-** Evening events at the Gazebo. Ray is reaching out to Beth Synott for possible events including readings and music. Bill Zitelli suggests the FOTST offer tours of the Arboretum Walkway.

#### **REGULAR BUSINESS**

- 8. **Maintenance-** Tom says it is very slow this time of year.
- 9. **FOTST update-** Ray says the focus will be on fundraising. Rachel says the scholarship is at the high school.
- 10. **Adopt-A-tree** – Ray says Aida Smith is looking for possible spaces for Adopt-a-Tree. The trees have to be taken care of. Ray gives all a print out of the obligations for taking care of them. If we do a planting we would want a minimum of 15 for the spring and 15 for the fall.

**Mike makes a motion to end the meeting. Abbie seconds. The meeting ends at 8:49pm**