

**Dumont Shade Tree Commission meeting minutes**  
**June 19, 2017 Dumont Senior Center 7:30pm**  
**(Meeting moved from Arboretum Gazebo due to inclement weather)**

**Present;** Commissioners - Ray Slaman, Rachel Bunin, Tom Fisichella, Abbie Slaman, Sally Tayeb, Michael Kuhn (via phone)

Guests; Bill Zitelli, Kathy Zitelli, Tanya Zimmerman, Joe Ulrich Arborist  
Council liaison substitute Rafael Riquelme (Lou DiPaolo was unable to attend)

**Call to Order;** Rachel, Mike seconds

**Home Owner issues;** Tom received mail at Boro Hall from home owner thanking Tom and the commission for having her trees pruned; Angela Harrison donated \$250.00 to be used by the DSTC for new trees.

Delaware home owner needs to repair sidewalks before new CO can be issued for newly purchased home. Large London Plane trees near his property are uplifting sidewalks. Ray and Tom will assess the situation. Many trees and sidewalks in the neighborhood. DSTC policy is to look for solutions that correct sidewalk issues, address safety concerns, and preserve valuable borough trees. Alternative to removing trees can be; ramping, redirecting sidewalk, or alternative materials.

Rachel raised a home owner issue on Beacon. The tree is on the list for removal.

**2.** Commissioner status. Tanya's nomination awaits Mayor's approval. Ray will reach out to the Mayor's office.

**3. Community Outreach;**

- 1 spring newsletter was completed and distributed right after Arbor Day. Summer newsletter to follow in August.
- 2 scholarships were awarded from Friends of the Shade Tree at DHS Senior Night (\$150 each); Sophia Zsofia Balog and Stefanie Moncoya.
- 3 Instagram is doing great with 1456 followers; Twitter has 96 followers mostly other shade tree groups and environmental groups.
- 4 Phil at Twin Boro wants to write a story about the new tree nursery. Ray will be in touch for the ground breaking.
- 5 July 15 Car Show at the Gazebo hosted by the Dumont Boy Scouts. Tanya will be running the show (3<sup>rd</sup> annual) 10am – 3pm \$15 per car to participate.

**4. Arboretum** – inspections for May – no report due to Tara absence. June report pending Sally completion later in the month.

July- Kathy and Bill

Aug - Kathy Sheridan

Sept - Abbie

Oct - Rachel

Nov - Kathy Sheridan

Dec - Sally

- 1 New bench installation is complete. New QR needed. Tracking device to be installed to prevent loss/theft. Ray looking into appropriate devices.
- 2 QR in gazebo is broken and needs replacement.

- 3 Garden group visited Lipardi's Nursery in Closter. New andromedas obtained at a discount that were planted at the Gazebo.
- 4 Tom met with landscapers on West Shore Ave. They will donate used tools for arboretum.
- 5 Tom, Ray, Bill to construct small shed for hose and tools.
- 6 13 new bricks were installed 5/27/17
- 7 north end water spigot needs maintenance
- 8 Joe suggested mulching the roots of the blue spruces. Tom suggested dirt
- 9 Rachel brought up Ridgewood's plan for planting trees during new street construction. The suggestion is to include funding for tree installation with new Dumont construction projects. Suggestion was that DOT projects don't have flexibility. Dumont controlled projects are possible. None are on the docket in town.

#### **5. Twilight at the Gazebo concert series Wednesday's in July 7:30-9:00pm**

Ray presented the Twilight at the Gazebo concert series to bring more attention to the Arboretum. Ray is organizing and enlisted Beth Synnott to enlist performers and other talented people to present at the concert. Beth told Ray that about 6 acts have signed up to perform. Suggestion on the format (theme night, etc.) were discussed. Acts will be limited to ½ hour or less depending on the line up. No one will be paid and no passing of the hat; strictly looking for performers who want to work on their material in a nice setting at the Arboretum. Business cards and networking will be fine. Family friendly evening. Rain cancellation will not be rescheduled

#### **6. Tree Nursery;**

Ray handed out preliminary drawings and photos of the planned nursery. Trees will be "pot in pot" design which will facilitate harvesting and transplanting. Fence type to be decided. \$25 permit fees will be the primary funding method. Ray suggested that we advertise for a nursery manager to help with the ongoing maintenance and management. Commissioners agreed. Final plans and agreement from Boro and Parks Dept. pending.

#### **7. Other projects**

Seminar for bracing/cabling trees to be run by Joe Ulrich. Joe suggested opening the parking lot islands for additional plantings. Joe suggested tree planters in the down town area. Look into renovation that centers on tree in the down town business area. Funding through Green Acres and significant planning is necessary.

#### **8. Regular Business:**

Tree maintenance is running smoothly. New DPW arborist is doing a good job. Works well with DSTC. Insurance claim for damaged tree on East Madison Ave. has been paid and deposited. Ray planted Redbud and service berry as replacements on the corner of E Madison and Wolcott.

#### **Adopt-a-tree;**

15 trees were planted this spring by Craig Grothues. Very good job and wonderful to work with. Reasonable cost for the excellent specimen of trees that were planted. Disappointed that only a single tree could be planted on Veterans Plaza; trees were lost as a result of the PSEG substation project but space was limited for replacement trees.

9:08pm Rachel moved to close the meeting. Mike second