

# Meeting Minutes

DUMONT SHADE TREE COMMISSION

8/21/2017

Monday, 7:30-9 pm Senior Center 39 Dumont Avenue Dumont, NJ 07628



## Call to Order

Attendees:

Commissioners: Rachel Bunin :: Tanya Zimmerman :: Ray Slaman :: Tom Fisichella ::  
Abbie Slaman (on phone)

Council: Lou DiPaolo

Residents: Karen Valido

7:30: Ray opened meeting/Tom second

## Discussion of homeowner issues/questions (if any)

Private property jurisdiction was discussed. The DSTC has no jurisdiction but we have an obligation to weigh in w/ the homeowner when safety is an issue. Recently we have several cases of neighbors complaining about trees on other neighbor's property. Doing what we can to advise and keep area safe.

- 60 Colonial Pkwy: Ray has been in touch with both sides to remedy failing tree and get owner to remove it Since 2016 Ray determined on inspection that it was a failed tree. We are urging owner; if don't take it down we can take further action.
- The Shade tree commission has created a document to alert homeowners that we have identified a declining tree and asking them to get a permit and proceed with proper action (RAY: pls send me a pdf of this document to attach to the minutes)
- DSTC also now has a document to place on homeowners who have a volcano mulch situation to protect those trees from becoming failing trees.
- (RAY: pls send me a pdf of this document to attach to the minutes)
- Cresskill Ave tree and Virginia Avenue trees on private property: neighbor wants trees down, homeowner doesn't. will follow-up
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- we have inspected the tree permit for 9 Shelby. The tree to be removed is not in the ROW and therefore not a Boro tree. The permit is APPROVED.
  - Homeowners want adopt-a-trees in front of house.
- we have inspected the tree permit for 38 Cole Ct. The tree to be removed is not in the ROW and therefore not a Boro tree. The permit is APPROVED.
- we have inspected the tree permit for 152 Berkeley. The tree to be removed is not in the ROW and therefore not a Boro tree. The permit is APPROVED.
- Inspected a tree on White Beeches: homeowner was told tree is in danger, but it isn't and it's a heritage tree. Ray looking into getting Heritage designation.
  - Homeowners want adopt-a-trees in front of house.
- Homeowner requests to remove boor trees Hamilton and Wolcott and 28 Grant:

Ray inspected; trees are fine, permit to remove **denied**.

- Trees behind Crystal diner: owner / neighbor wants them down b/c of a business; trees are fine no need to remove.

Sycamores seem to be losing branches. Tom said there is a virus going around

## Community outreach and communication

**Pinwheels for Peace:** School program – climate change, deforestation; make a difference

Senora Azate (sp?) dual theme program Trees/Espanol. Grades 6-8. DSTC voted unanimously to participate. Karen Valido brought sample pinwheels. Tanya is the liaison. Tom and Ray will help put program together:

Issue:

- How many students? Location? How long a program? Interactive?
- Distribute pinwheels on dumont day (Tom will prepare the dowels/ working with Karen Valido)
- Resources: NJ Shade Tree commission, Sierra Club, DiPaolo will send contact info
- Place pinwheels at Gazebo in Fall Pinwheel for **Peace 9/21/17** (similar but shorter program than Twilight event)
- stepping stone project, poets walk project

### Newsletter update

- Summer 2017 issue is published
- Rachel will send an email to Ask Sally Tayeb to print 25 copies (staple not folded but color) to distribute in BH, Library, and at Dumont Day

### Website, social media

- **Rachel:** FB is doing fine, many interesting stories lots of 'likes'
- **Abbie:** Instagram over 100 followers and Twitter is growing

## New Banner-time for new banners for parade and other events

Tanya has template for new banner. needs eps version of logo. On banner will have logo, Shade Tree name and website going to a vinyl banner 2'x6' or 2' x5' Tanya will send out samples and contact to find pricing

## Dumont Day; 9/9/17

- Tom will borrow a card table from Karen Valido for 'Tree Artifacts'
- Tanya: Stepping stones project (will ask for \$2? donation from participants to cover expenses) will get quickcrete: tom will help pick which type 50lb bag
- Plants sold by Garden Club
- Stumpy to get donations
- Setup 8am. starts 10am

## Arboretum

- Maintenance, inspections, general upkeep: Report from Kathy Sheridan inspection from the Arboretum for August. It is also entered on the website
- Tom fixed the gazebo. there's no vandalism!! 😊 😊

- Rachel suggested a system to avoid scheduling conflicts if groups start using the space for events: Community use of the Arboretum (e.g. Boy Scouts car show)
- Events update; Summer series - Twilight at the Gazebo summary and feedback was a resounding success: maybe have a Pinwheels for Peace event on Peace Day at Gazebo.
- Bricks installation: none to go in: Kathy Sheridan still in charge of bricks
- Stepping stone project, poets walk project tie into Pinwheels for Peace

## Tree Nursery Project

Ray has proposal about to go to Council.

MCGaw park. will be up and running in 2018

- Will contact Phil at paper for publicity
- Site is 25' x 100'
- Trees in pots
- About 100 trees (will be available to town and to donate to private; also take a tree/plant a tree
- Lou DiPaolo will set up a meeting w/ Rec

## Regular Business

- Tree Maintenance: Tom said mostly 311 calls not 411 calls
- Trees at Wood Place and McKinley taken care of
- 170 Brook Street homeowner who removed borough tree w/o permission: has been issued a \$1500 fine (it's a discounted fee) waiting for response. After deadline fee will rise and will get a summons
- Wood Street triangle apartment: Tom wants to plant trees cannot reach owner. We'll try again

## Woodside Cemetery partnership

Dead branch on pine tree altered by Judy Parker. DSTC and Tom Kelly reaching out to the Woodside Trustees. DSTC looking to make a partnership to replace trees for the cemetery = a private space but public benefits.

8:55pm Abbie motion to Close: Rachel seconds motion.