



# Meeting minutes

DUMONT SHADE TREE COMMISSION  
12/18/2017



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

## Call to Order

1. DIAL commissioners that are participating remotely – Mike Kuhn
  - Present: Ray Slaman, Tom Fisichella, Rachel Bunin, Tanya Zimmerman, Kathy Zitelli, Bill Zitelli
  - Present: Carole Stewart (acting Liaison), Sandra Scaiano (resident)
2. Review Prior Meeting Minutes
  - Accepted: and Ray will get prior minutes posted to the [www.dumontnj.gov](http://www.dumontnj.gov) website
3. Discussion of homeowner issues/questions (if any)
  - Howard Ave requested DSTC to weigh in on driveway issue. would require many trees to be removed per current ordinance for impervious paving. DSTC will weigh in on issues where trees are involved
  - DPW has reported cases of homeowners trimming town trees to detriment of trees. Unauthorized trimming will be addressed
  - 170 Brook Street borough tree was trimmed by homeowner w/o permit—
4. Community outreach and communication
  - Going well, lots of action and postings on FB and Instagram and Twitter accounts
  - Dumontstc.com website was hacked/exploited. No data lost. Mike K restored/ updated, removed malicious posting. All links are now active again
- a. Newsletter
  - We need to tighten up distribution
  - Mike Kuhn will send email list to Ray/Rachel/Tanya. We thank him for his excellent work over the years. Rachel/Tanya will take over list beginning 2018
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- b. Website, social media
  - Dumontshadetree.org website needs updating.
  - Sandra Scaiano presented her proposal to update and host the website. Proposal was distributed to all commissioners
    - Would be a WordPress site
  - She will provide training so we can easily maintain the website and add to it
  - Will be able to blog post our newsletter and promote events easily on homepage
  - Backups and security scans included
  - Maybe combine with dumontstc.com?
  - Commissioners will review and get back to Ray with decision
    - Have enough info to make a judgement to engage Sandra
    - Is Sandra the right business to do this? (are we confident in her as a choice?)
    - Other quotes? (Tom's daughter is a web designer and reviewed the proposal and came back with a favorable assessment
    - Does the proposal cover what we need for the website?
    - Ray will investigate funding approvals
5. Arboretum
  - Shopping carts are a persistent problem. how best to deal with this?

- Call DPD? Call source store? Just return them ourselves?
  - Library has patrons and has had books added by residents
  - Thanks to Gail Ferrer for holiday decorations
- a. Maintenance, inspections, general upkeep (monthly assignments)
- We will make monthly assignments in January meeting
  - Zitellis will do January
  - Perhaps put assignments on the 'new' website if we get it going
  - March 2018 will cut down roses and replace those bushes that need replacing
  - Need to ask Mayor/Council for parking barriers and restriping. (This is permitted/fee based parking so should be \$\$\$ to maintain the parking areas which is now not maintained
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- b. Community use of the Arboretum
- Train engineers have brunch meeting every Sunday morning at Gazebo
  - Hoping for other groups to join in
6. Events update; spread the word
- FOTST Holiday Wreath Project – scholarship fund –
  - Holiday Wreath project was a huge success. 25 paid wreaths were made. Great feedback from attendees
- a. Honiss School program; Deforestation and local impact. - summary
- b. Honiss program on 12/1/17 was a 'homerun' Huge success.
  - Maybe we should take it on the road to other schools
7. Tree Nursery - update
- 65 trees were planted
  - Still working out details for distribution once trees grow
  - Fence to come; posts are there
8. Education
- Rachel attended December webinar—applying for CEUs
  - Abbie and Ray went to conference
9. 2017 summary of accomplishments
- Ray needs a complete list to fulfill our state requirements as a commission; pls send by January—Ray has to submit to NJ state by 2/15/18
  - We have a very long list and a lot to be proud of for DSTC accomplishments in 2017
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10. 2018 planning
- Note Jan and Feb meeting dates (second Mondays)
- b. 3/5/18 **Annual winter seminar** – discuss theme and presenters
- March 5<sup>th</sup> Winter seminar ideas
    - Suez? Tanya knows someone will contact for presentations
- i. 2013 Sandy, 2014 Tree add Home Value, 2015 real estate/trees, 2016 Climate change, 2017 Riverkeeper
- c. 4/28/18 **Arbor Day**
- Will start planning in January
  - Tanya suggested we tell art contest winners beforehand so they show up

## Regular Business

### 11. Tree Maintenance

- Tom: all in OK shape, Dennis is out there doing a good job.
  - 170 Brook Street will get a summons

- Suggestion: put notice in TBN about ordinances for trees so people know not to trim or cut borough trees
12. Update from FOTST – meeting, fundraising, activities and projects
- Sally not at meeting
  - Update was funds from Wreath making event 25 x \$20= \$500 minus 10% and expenses to scholarship fund
  - Rachel has been in touch with Terry Stanek at DHS for our scholarship to hit the system in time
13. Adopt-A-Tree – Plan for spring
- Hoping for a big year
- a. Johnny and Janey Appleseed recruits
- Honiss students from the presentation can get involved
14. Other Open Business  
Meeting closed 9:12pm

Announcements:

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

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BUY A BRICK, ENJOY THE GAZEBO  
(At the Arboretum on West Shore Avenue)

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