

**Dumont Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
November 2015, 7:30pm Dumont Senior Center**

Present- Tom Fiscella, Rachel Bunin, Kathy Sheridan-Parrish, Sally Tayeb, on phone-Ray Slaman and Abbie Slaman

Guests- Bill Zitelli, Cathy Zitelli

Absent- Mike Kuhn

**Call to order. Kathy makes a motion to begin the meeting. Sally seconds.
Meeting begins at 7:35.**

1. Review Prior Meeting Minutes-

- a. October Meeting Minutes- Kathy makes a motion to accept the October Meeting Minutes as written. Ray seconds. This motion passes.
- b. August and September meeting minutes-Kathy makes a motion to accept the August and September Meeting Minutes. Ray seconds. Tom abstains. There are not enough members who have read the minutes. This motion is on hold until the December meeting where it will be voted on.

- 2. Homeowner issues-** No Homeowners are present. Tom brings up an issue at 107 Barbara. There is a narrow strip of land between 107 and 111 Barbara. It is not a ROW. It is an easement. It is his understanding that the town has the right to take care of drainage issues. The town does not own the trees. Ray will clarify the documentation of this and the Borough position and therefor the Shade Tree position. He will then see the homeowner. Sally say easement does not give town ownership. If the Commission wants the right to supervise trees on private property we need to address that issue in the ordinance. Ray will get further documentation. Tom inspected the tree in question and doesn't think there is an issue. We need to contact the homeowner to see what they believe is the problem. Also there is an issue on Guerney Court. The trees are on the Golf Club Property. Ray has looked at the tree and let

homeowner know the tree is a Golf Course issue. The tree has significant dead limbs.

3. **Welcome new members-** Bill and Cathy Zitelli are present and have been active in taking care of the Arboretum.
4. **Commission members-** Rachel will be sworn in at the December 1 Council meeting. She has been appointed to complete the term that was previously held by Larry Tobias. Anyone free that night is welcome to attend.
5. **New Projects-**discuss and assign project leaders.
 - a. Heritage Trees- Ray is the leader
 - b. Help maintaining the Arboretum-Bill Zitelli is heading this up. He is working on assigning flower beds that will be maintained in the spring. So far he has 6 of the 11 beds assigned. Bill is thinking we will have a meeting in early spring and make sure we are all on the same page. Bill says he will work on maintaining an email list. Sally sent him the email list and he will reach out to see if anyone is interested in maintaining a flower bed.
 - c. **Newsletter and Social Media-** Rachel is handling this. She says the winter newsletter will be out mid Decemberish. She is looking for items. She would like something from the wreath making event and maybe something from Bill about the beds.
 - d. Identifying Tree issues/perform inspections-Train new members. Ray says maybe we could look for a dedicated member who would share some of the workload. Kathy says she is still interested in doing this but hasn't been called.
6. **Arboretum-**
 - a. Maintenance, inspections, general upkeep- Kathy has the month of November. She says all seems basically good. In the spring we need a handle on the weeds and that is being worked on by the assignment of the beds. The Gazebo could use a protective coat in the spring. She says the Decorative lights that are installed the length of the walkway seem to have small issues with gaskets etc. They all work but something to keep an eye on. A question comes up about the exposed

conduit wire and cone. It is decided that to take care of it for now we will ask for a load of topsoil to be put over it and we will seed it for grass.

b. Bricks- After the last meeting we installed the bricks that were ready. Since then a few orders have come in. Kathy will check on them. Rachel asks how the people who order are hearing about our bricks. It would be nice to know which form of advertising is working. Kathy will email the people and find out. It is discussed to maybe put a line asking that question on the order form. There is a discussion of getting a flier to groups that might be interested such as PTA and Project Graduation.

7. **Community Outreach and Newsletter-** Rachel brings up the Winter Festival. It is December 4th with a Rain date for December 5th. Kathy and Rachel will get together a table and lollipops and be ready for it.
8. **Arbor Day 2016 review and planning-** Arbor Day 2016 is April 30th. Tom says maybe we could look into other categories for the Art Contest such as Mommy and Me, and Seniors. Sally wonders if we could put some of the Arbor Day Art on the town calendar. Ray says he is working on a separate contest for Heritage Trees. Residents will try to find the biggest tree in town. It will be separate from the Art Contest. Kathy will work on a letter to go to teachers in January. It will give them a heads up and maybe we will get more participation. Ray says to think about who will be our honorees for 2016. Sally says maybe we could look toward some of the educators who are in town.
9. **Update from FOTST-** Sally is drafting the grant letter to the bank for signage. She will circulate new draft of signs. She asks Tom for the cost of the cedar post that will hold the signs. She starts a discussion on how to acknowledge the people who give us the Grant. It is brought up to maybe post a sign in the kiosk. It is also discussed how much to add to the cost of the job in the Grant request. It is decided that to add one third to the cost of the job is customary. Also the Annual meeting of FOTST is discussed. It is decided to be a potluck gathering. The board is invited with all the Friends who have helped out. We will see if we can have it at the Elks

possibly January 6th or January 13th. The Friends are also having a “make a wreath” event on December 2nd. They will be meeting at the Arboretum Saturday November 28th at 2pm to take some trimmings for wreaths.

REGULAR BUSINESS

10. **Tree Maintenance-** Tom will get some follow up maintenance issues to Kathy so she can handle them. He reports he has no stats for the year yet. He says 50% of the requests end in NAT, no action taken and 50% end in DPW work requested. We still have a lot of residents with sewer pipe issues. Sewer pipe issues are not caused by the trees. The pipes already had leaks.
11. **Ordinance and Litigation update-** The Litigation at 14 Garfield has ended with a judgment in favor of DSTC in the amount of \$1,250.00. Ray is going to meet with our liaison, Don Morrell to come up with a schedule of fines for damage to borough trees to be included in our ordinance. It will make it easier to prosecute.
12. **Other-**Ray will submit a list of DSTC events to be included on the 2016 Borough Calendar. Ray is working on our 5 year plan. We received funding to write the plan. We have thru 2016 to get the full plan in place. Bill Zitelli also brings up that a Trash can is needed on the north end of the Arboretum. He also brings up the idea of making our own bench. If a large tree is cut down somewhere in town maybe we could use the log to fashion a bench. Sally says it could be dedicated on Arbor Day. All are enthusiastic about this idea and it deserves further investigation.

Kathy makes a motion to end the meeting. Ray seconds. Meeting is ended at 9:12pm.