

**Dumont Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes for January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
**Senior Center 7:30pm**

**Present:** Ray Slaman, Abbie Slaman, Mike Kuhn, Sally Tayeb, Tom Fisichella, Larry Tobias, Kathy Sheridan-Parrish

**Guests-** Rachel Bunin, Council Liaison Don Morrell

**Abbie makes a motion to begin the meeting. Tom seconds. Meeting begins 7:30pm**

1. **Review prior meeting minutes-** Ray proposes to accept the minutes from the December as written. Passes unanimously.
2. **Welcome new council liaison,** Don Morrell- Ray reviews a quick history of the Shade Tree Commission. Council Person Morrell states he appreciates the work that the commission has done and that it adds to the quality of life of the town of Dumont.
3. **Discussion of Homeowner Issues-** No homeowners are present. Ray says that a concern has been brought up again about a town tree on Chestnut Avenue. The homeowner has an issue with acorns and the safety of the tree. This has come before the commission within the past year. Ray will review the information and if warranted send another letter to the homeowner. This is a healthy Heritage Town tree with no reason to remove.
4. **Arboretum**
  - a. **Maintenance, inspections, general upkeep-** It is Tara's month to inspect. Ray and Abbie have gone to the Arboretum and physically removed shopping carts and returned them to Stop and Shop.
  - b. **Arboretum Event:** Railroad program- Tom is hoping for a big turnout. There is more and more interest. Tom has small projects that he will need volunteers to do. A book with the history of the railroad in Dumont is being worked on. Tom says there is a possibility of Dumont getting an old Caboose. It could be a Museum. This is being

investigated to see what it would entail. Ray says the Railroad event it is a perfect tie in with the Arboretum and the history of the town of Dumont.

5. **Community outreach and communication-**

- a. **Newsletter-** Rachel says not much going on at this time. The format is going to change back to the old format. It will allow more content. Rachel has a March 1<sup>st</sup> target for the newsletter being done. It will cover the seminar, the railroad event and the upcoming Arbor Day celebration.
- b. **Website-** Tom has a question, are the tree requests being recorded? Is Mary recording them? He states we should keep all the records for 2014 and then add a new page to start 2015. Mike will add a new section to start 2015. Kathy asks about the ability to print the inspection form. Rachel asks if we can also have the map of the Arboretum. It helps with the inspection. Mike says he will make a PDF of the map available. Abbie put the flier for the Seminar on the website and made an event for the seminar on Facebook. Rachel shared the flier on the Facebook Dumont Page.

6. **January Seminar-Planning and agenda discussion.**

- a. **Advertising, communications, notifications-** Rachel submitted a blurb to the Twinboro. Don will announce at the Town Council Meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Abbie brought fliers to Borough Hall. Tom will bring some to the Library. Rachel brought fliers to the Post Office, the medical center and the Jeweler in Dumont. Mike will send out the flier to the email list. Ray will send a flier to Dave Miller for his email list. Ray will notify the NJ Tree Federation so they may send out notification.
- b. **Speakers-** Ray set up a meeting with the speakers. Ray will act as moderator. Dave Miller has credibility as a Real Estate Expert and he will do an approx. 20 minute presentation. Next a Representative from PSEG will do a 20 minute presentation on vegetation management. Craig Grothes will have a presentation on the Deer population in our area. CTEs Rob Gillies and Joe Ulrich will join the panel with everyone

- for questions. PSEG is bringing a projector to use with their computer. Kathy will have the Arboretum Walk video on a stick that can be shown.
- c. **Other-** Abbie will bring baked goods. Tom will bring cookies, sugar, stirrers, coffee and candy. Mike will bring paper goods. Kathy will bring ice tea, cookies and water. Tom will bring all the literature, easels, stumpy. Ray will get the green boards for display. It is decided to set up using chairs this time facing the south wall. Ray says we should all arrive at the senior center 6-6:30 pm for setup.
7. **Arbor Day-**Ray asks everyone to think about a theme, who will be our honoree this year and do we plan to install any bricks. Also does anyone have any ideas of a tree to plant? We should ask the Boy Scouts Troop 64 if they would again help in the opening of the ceremony. Are there any ideas on the Art Contest and the T-shirt?
8. **Update from FOTST-** fundraising activities and projects. The next meeting is Thursday 7:30 at Sally's home. It will be the Annual meeting with voting for Officers. Sally has been looking at the Bylaws and making notes trying to tie up loose ends. Ray explains the FOTST to Don, their role in supporting the Commission.
9. **PSEG discussion-** They will have a Representative at the Seminar. This is a quiet time for them. Plans for their continued work change as it goes along.

### **Regular Business**

10. **I-Tree-** Larry says things are slow. It is too cold and the weather is not good for going out and doing the field updates for I-Storm. He says he has collected graphics and passed them to Rachel for displays at the Seminar.
11. **Maintenance-** Tom has the 2014 Stats for work done. Joe Sherban has been out with surgery and will be back on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Then the DPW will be back catching up with maintenance and that should put us in good shape. The work needs to be done by an arborist. Currently the stats aren't that good but we are looking to catch up in the spring. Mostly it is trimming issues. Tom says there is a possibility of a tree that may be infected with the Ash Borer. Tom will have the Arborist look. If this is suspect the state

has to be called for an inspection. A sign is D shaped holes. Tom is going to check into the sign machine the town may have for “curb your dog” signs. He also is looking into getting pipe. It makes the signs look nicer at the Arboretum.

**12. Town Council Ordinance-** Ray reports that right now it is quiet. At the peak it was 10 a month with an average of 5 a month. The data gathered will help to understand why trees are being removed. Ray is working to get the permit money moved to Shade Tree. The money could be used for plantings.

**13. Winter Schedule-** February 14<sup>th</sup> will be the Luncheon for the DPW. Anyone who would like to contribute may. Also anyone inclined to bake desert for that day and bring it over is welcome.

**14. Other business-** Ray needs any and all information from our activities during the year. Anyone with a list of hours spent, info on the newsletter, winter festival, Halloween etc. should pass that to Ray. Kathy says that if anyone has a desire to order a brick, now is the time to do it so that we can get an order in. Ray also asks everyone to think about what our next project may be. Possibly something that would designate town Heritage trees. An example might be to look at the NY Botanical gardens and see how they identify and mark trees. Abbie brings up that they have a guided tour with phone numbers that can be called for an audio tour. Ray says this could go hand in hand with QR codes. Tom brings up the idea of extending the North and South boundaries of the Arboretum. He brings up possibly Renaming Sorosis Park, Station Park, to go along with the Railroad History we are finding in Dumont. He says back in the day that was the center of town.

**Mike makes a motion to close the meeting. Kathy seconds. The meeting is adjourned at 9pm.**