

Dumont Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
February 9th, 2015 Dumont Senior Center 7:30pm

Present-Tom Fisichella, Ray Slaman, Abbie Slaman, Sally Tayeb, Kathy Sheridan-Parrish

Absent- Larry Tobias, Mike Kuhn

Guests-Tara Barker, Rachel Bunin (on phone)

Call to Order- Kathy makes a motion to start the meeting. Ray seconds.
Meeting starts at 7:31pm.

1. **Approval of last meeting minutes-** Kathy states they are not ready and Ray says they will be voted on at the next meeting.

2. **Discussion of Homeowner issues-** none present

3. Arboretum

- a. **Maintenance-** Tom says the Arboretum is snowed in. There is no access. Sally says the red berries on the Winter King Hawthorne are beautiful against the beautiful blanket of snow. Tom would like to look for grant money to put up stone paver/Wall. Engraved plaques could be sold and mounted on the wall. Sally says to apply for grants the Friends of the Shade tree should be registered with the NJ community Affairs Department and be on their list of 501c3 nonprofit charities. She is working on it. Weedman is brought up for weed management at the Arboretum. Ray says we have a budget for treatments. Tom says it would be four treatments. Sally expresses concern about deer eating plantings at the Arboretum. Ray says he regularly monitors the bushes.
- b. **Arboretum Event-**Railroad program- It is to be June 6th. Tom has contacted the president of NY Central Railroad. He has many photos. Tom has built a replica of the Dumont Tower. Ray asks what is the vision. Tom states there will be train items for sale, bonds and plaster engines etc. There will be 3 layouts. One for the kids with push around wood trains. There will be an electric train kids can operate. There will be another that shows scenic Dumont. We will have guides to give a tour

and talk with 12 stop points. Also a book is being worked on with history of trains in Dumont. We will have a ticket agent with tickets to punch. Rachel is doing a flier and exit interview questionnaire. The hours will be from 10am to 4pm. The rain date will be Sunday June 7th. Ray says we will need to block off some of the parking and he will go thru our Liaison, Don Morrell. Abbie has contacted operation Life Saver and Tom has talked to CSX and they will both have a table.

4. Community outreach and communications

- a. **Newsletter-** Ray dials into Rachel and she is on the phone on speaker. She states for the Spring Newsletter we will go back to the old format. She is hoping to have news of the Seminar in there. She is going to wait until after that and maybe a photo at the DPW lunch would be good. Sally requests that Rachel puts in information on the Garden Committee upcoming meeting. Rachel says she will do a draft and leave a spot for the seminar. The newsletter will be ready to go.
- b. **Website-** Abbie is gathering the billing info and will submit expenses for 2014.

5. **DPW Luncheon-** will be on Wednesday 2/11/2015 at 11:30. It is much appreciated. Food will be delivered from Italian Connection. The date is flexible if we have a snow storm and DPW needs to be out. The Luncheon is done by voluntary contribution and does not come from the Commission budget. Anyone wishing to drop off baked goods for deserts that would be welcome.
6. **March Seminar-** Ray brings up for discussion dates for rescheduling the snowed out January Seminar. Should we schedule for March 9th. Dave Miller who was to be a speaker is not available on March 2nd. Ray will look into availability of the Senior Center, and our other speakers from PSEG and CTE's for March 9th. Rachel will wait to see how that works out and then put an announcement in the twinboro. Ray has an outline for the seminar. When Abbie does a new flier Sally will also put it up on the Friends of the Shade Tree website.

7. Arbor Day 2015-

a. **Theme, recognition, activities**-Ray says we need someone to recognize and an award recipient. Abbie says we should think about the t-shirt. Maybe a logo of trees and trains and what color. Tom says Railroad colors, greens, greys and black. Ray also brings up having official shirts of a polo style that we would wear to all events. We have also the Arbor Day Art Contest. Possible changes to the Art Contest are discussed. Maybe we could see if our winners could be on the Recycling Calendar. This will be out 10th Arbor Day Celebration. It is discussed that maybe Carolyn Blowers and the Library could be our Merit Award winner. They have always supported us. Kathy brings up an idea of having bricks for all of the past award winners and have them installed in the Arboretum. Ray will look into the budget and see if bricks will be possible. We need to find someone to do the National Anthem. Our theme will be that this is the 10th Anniversary of Dumont celebrating Arbor Day.

8. **Update from Friends of the Shade Tree**- Sally talks about the Garden Committee Meeting that will be March 28th at the Library. She has fliers for everyone to distribute around town. Sally has a balance sheet for the FOTST. She has set up categories that will detail who buys bricks etc. She also would like to start a vendor file.

9. **I-Tree**- Larry is not at meeting and will report at the next meeting.

10. **Maintenance**- Tom reports that Joe Sherban is back. Snow is holding back work. A maintenance list has gone out.

11. **Town Ordinance/Permits**- Ray reports that we lost a 2 year old adopt a tree on New Milford Ave near Whitaker. We do not know who cut it down. It had a 3-4 inch diameter.

12. **OTHER**- Ray is going over the 2015 budget. He is looking into having the \$25 from permits transfer into Shade Tree Budget. He asks everyone to think about a spring planting. We should revisit the Green Neighborhood program. Adopt a tree is on the 2015 online database.

Tom makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sally seconds. Meeting adjourned at 8:54pm.

