

Dumont Shade Tree Commission meeting minutes

March 16th 2015, Dumont Senior Center 7:30pm

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

Guest- Rachel Bunin, Tara Barker, Don Morrell, Council Liaison

Call to order- Ray proposes we begin the meeting. Tom seconds. Meeting begins 7:35pm.

1. **Review prior meeting minutes-** Ray proposes to accept the January meetings minutes as written. Tom abstains. Everyone else approves January's minutes.
2. **Discussion of Homeowner issues-** None present. Ray mentions that there is an issue of a trip and fall claim on Niagara. He has reached out to the town attorney and John Perkins. We will follow the guidance of the town attorney.
3. **Arboretum-**
 - a. **Maintenance, inspections, general upkeep** – Abbie has this month and she has it well covered. DPW has been in contact. Tara mentions that the new Tree City flag may be late for Arbor Day. We will get an American Flag from the DPW. Tom brings up restraining of the Gazebo. Sally asks if the bricks are sealed, should we seal the bricks with a polymer resin. That would be a big job and not sure it is needed. Kathy says the weeds have already started. Tom will call Weedman to get treatments scheduled.
 - b. **Arboretum Event-** Dumont: Riding the Rails through History- Ray says that this event needs to be publicized. He brings up possibilities of The Record, Bergen County Historical Society. Rachel talks about getting fliers to train shows and possibly an article in a train magazine. Mike will look online for Train Fan sites. We need a flier. There is a discussion about fair use laws for photos and how they are different for use of selling and

advertising. Rachel prefers to use photos out of copyright. Sally will do a flier. Rachel will do a blurb and Tom will supply a photo. Ray says we need to make sure everything is covered. We should have an agenda for the day, a schedule with who, where and what is happening. Larry has brought an example of cut out trains that we can print and a child could take home to make. We could have those for a donation. Sally talks about a table with goodies. Maybe the restaurants in the area would want to participate somehow. Mike brings up a banner across Washington Ave. Do we need approval? How does that work? Sally asks if Tom needs any help. Tom says that it is divided into pieces and many people are working separately on pieces of the project. Rachel says that March 30th she would be around to do a final double check of the book that is being worked on. Tom asks if there is a quote for the Event polo shirts. Abbie has a quote of \$28 per shirt. Everyone should send her their size.

4. Community Outreach and Communications

a. **Newsletter update**- Rachel says the newsletter looks great and she took copies to the new borough hall and the Library. She sent a notice about the trains event and buy a brick to the Twinboro. The next newsletter will have the Train Event in it and she may need to have more pages. Sally asks if the newsletter is being sent out to the email list. Mike will work on that.

5. **March Seminar, Review and Feedback**- Rachel says we should plan it for March next year. January weather is not predictable. Everyone has gotten good feedback. Ray would like to do a nominal gift for each speaker. He proposes that we give a \$50 dollar gift for each of the 5 speakers. Everyone votes yes to this idea.

6. Arbor Day 2015-

a. **Theme**- The theme is “10th Arbor Day Celebration”

b. **Certificate of Merit Honoree**- the recipient is not a secret this year. The award will be given to Carolyn Blowers and the Dixon Homestead Library.

Don Morrell will make the presentation. The Mayor will present the proclamation.

- c. **Invitations to past honorees-** We are reaching out to all past Merit Award winners to invite them to the celebration. Kathy will reach out to all the boy scouts in town.
 - d. **Flag presentation-** Boy Scout Troop 64 is on board to do the Flag ceremony.
 - e. **National Anthem-** Beth Synott will provide someone.
 - f. **Art Contest-** Kathy has the flier. Abbie says we should delete the NJ Tree Federation part of the flier. Tara will work on the buttons for the contest winners. Kathy brings up the idea of prizes. She would like to go to a town business and work out a gift card. It would be something different and promote business in town. She will go to Yo-Delight with the idea and see if that will work. Sally brings up using QR codes around town for promoting. She also a \$25 gift certificate that she has to White Flower Farm as a possibility for a grand prize in the Art Contest. Rachel says that may be better to use as a raffle at the train event.
 - g. **Publicity-** Abbie is taking care of this year's t-shirts. She saw a mockup of the shirt. It is black or charcoal grey depending on availability. She asks for input as to the color being black and white, or would everyone prefer to also add in some green if possible. There is a vote and Tom and Larry vote for black and white. Everyone else votes to add in green. Abbie also will email the sponsor form to everyone. Everyone should bring the sponsor forms and payment to Mary at borough hall and then she will get the orders. Mike will do a sponsor sheet for business windows.
 - h. **Other for Arbor Day-** we have one more meeting before Arbor Day. We will finalize snacks, tables, logistics etc. Ray will go to Victoria's for a tree. There is an open spot next to the Holly.
7. **Update from FOTST-** Sally is sending in the IRS package now that the Scholarship is set up. In two months the annual registration will be due. On the 28th there will be a Garden Club meeting at the Library from 10 – 12. She asks if the Scholarship can be announced at the Council Meeting.

REGULAR BUSINESS

8. **I-Tree-** Larry says we need to get serious about surveying for I-Tree. We will have town trees only in the database. It can be useful for maintenance. If anyone goes for a walk they should do a block or two.
9. **Maintenance-** Tom says that maintenance concerns are starting to trickle in. The tree truck and Joe Sherban are out. The system was down for a while but is back now.
10. **Town Ordinance-**It is quiet for now.
11. **Adopt-a-tree-** we will do in the fall.
12. **Other-** We need to have a display for the Library. Mike is out of town. Tara says she will handle it. She will get ideas from Mike and see what she can come up with. Ideas are using pieces of trees and explaining the anatomy of a tree. Maybe a bit about FOTST bricks.

Meeting adjourned 9pm