

Dumont Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
April 20th 2015 7:30pm Senior Center

**Call to Order-Larry makes a motion to begin the meeting. Sally 2nd.
Meeting begins 7:30.**

**Present-Ray Slaman, Abbie Slaman, Mike Kuhn, Tom Fisichella, Larry Tobias, Sally Tayab, Kathy Sheridan-Parrish,
Guest-Rachel Bunin, Tara Barker**

- 1. Review Prior meeting Minutes.** Kathy does not have and will owe at a future meeting.
- 2. Discussion of homeowner issues**-none present
- 3. Arboretum**
 - a. Maintenance, inspections, general upkeep**-It is Abbies month for inspection. She did the online report. She went to the Arboretum walkway with her “grabber” and picked up a garbage bag of garbage. There were a lot of cigarette butts and refuse from the winter. Abbie reports that the trees look in good condition. There may be some that need trimming. They are budding and the tree involved in the auto accident appears to be recovering. We need a larger American flag, a 4’by6’ would be appropriate. The Space tree is growing well. Ray and Tom will inspect the Arboretum prior to the Arbor Day Celebration. The DPW will make things look nice. Tom will restake the Space Tree and is working on lower Dog waste signs. Tom says Joe Ulrich is looking for some work and may help us out on some trimming. Mike brings up the possibility of making the

Arboretum Smoke Free. Kathy recalls hearing of a law/bill in NJ that was going to ban smoking in public parks but does not know the outcome.

- b. **Arboretum Event-DUMONT-Riding the Rails thru History-** Tom Reports that Kathy and Abbie are working on the “Kids Crossing”. Rachel will come up with a word find. Kathy will get a coloring page. He says we need lots of tables. If the Library is unable to send someone for Story time Rachel will do the story. Newton Sweet, a Dumont Resident, family worked on the Railroad going back to the late 1700’s. He will have a table and items to show. Mike will work on advertising the event in train magazines. Tom has flier and asks everyone to take some and hang in windows around town. Sally and the Garden Committee will have a table toward the north end of the Arboretum. Ray is informing DPW, and the John Perkins and Dumont PD. Mike asks if we need to supply Porta Johns and who would pay? Tom suggests we may want to talk to restaurants in the area maybe they would want to have a Railroad special. Larry brings up the printed cut out craft train he had at a previous meeting. He has noticed it is copyrighted. Sally will ask her son; maybe he can design something as a similar idea.

4. **Community outreach and communications-**

- a. **Newsletter**-Rachel is working on a draft of the Summer Newsletter. She will wait until after the Railroad event to publish it so that all the Shade Tree news is in it.
- b. **Website, social media**-Rachel is sending notices for all our events into the Twinboro. Sally will send in a notice to the Twinboro for the Garden Committee. Ray asks Mike if he can come up with any

other publications for the Railroad event to send them the information.

5. **Memorial Day Parade-**

- a. **Seeds**-Abbie is researching rates for seed packets. She asks if anyone else has time to also look for sources for full size seed packs. We usually order 2,000 packets.
- b. **Float/marchers/new ideas**-Rachel will be away and Larry will be marching with the Veterans. Everyone else will be available. Tom asks do we want to try for a small platform float. Abbie passes out the Event Shirts and everyone is happy with them. These will be worn at all events that the Shade Tree is involved in. Abbie also mentions that we have lots of leftover lollipops that can be passed out at parade.

6. **Arbor Day-**

- a. **Theme**- 10th Annual Arbor Day
- b. **Certificate of Merit Honoree**- Dixon Homestead Library – Carolyn Blowers
- c. **Invitations to past Honorees**- Ray will reach out and Kathy will get notice to Dumont Boy Scouts.
- d. **Flag presentation**- Boy Scout Troop 64 will handle the flag raising for Pledge.
- e. **National Anthem**- Emily Waver
- f. **Art contest and activities**-Kathy will have the boards displaying the art as well as the certificates and prizes. She reports that we have had great participation this year in the contest. She will notify participants to attend the celebration.

g. **Other-** Snacks-Rachel, Tara, Sally and Kathy will bring cookies etc. Kathy has cups, twine, and clothes pins. Kathy will take photos at the event. Ray says bring shovels and mark them as yours. The tree will be delivered Friday prior to event.

7. **Update from FOTST-** Sally reports that the State of NJ has acknowledged receipt of the application to go on the list of NJ Charities and they are reviewing. The Garden Committee has met and done a walk through at the Arboretum. They have planted flowers.

Ray proposes that the DSTC donate 1,200 to the Friends of the Shade Tree for the work they are doing to foster the planting of shade trees and foster the environment in the community. This is unanimously passed.

REGULAR BUSINESS

8. **I-Tree** – Larry reports that there is a new guide available for managing trees. It has an ariel view. It requires special software and is costly. He says it has options to look at every tree or to set up plots. If we were to only look at public trees we could use volunteers. Another option offered is consultants at a cost \$40,000. Everyone agrees that this is something we need to do ourselves.
9. **Maintenance-**Tom says that right now there is very little maintenance. Possible due to past good maintenance that was done. He asks that everyone be on the lookout for town trees that need maintenance. There have been some issues brought up concerning sidewalks and sewers. Ray mentions a tree that was planted by a resident on town property. Abbie says in the 2008 ordinance a resident needs a permit to plant a tree on town property.

10. **Permits**-Ray reports that the number of permits are picking up. . Ray mentions a tree that was planted by a resident on town property. Abbie says in the 2008 ordinance a resident needs a permit to plant a tree on town property.
11. **Other**- Ray has submitted a grant for 3,000 dollars to aid in a new master plan. He is working on the Shade Tree Commissions 3rd 5 year plan. Mike asks about the trip and fall lawsuit on Niagara Street. Ray states that borough liability is very clear that the borough does not maintain the sidewalks.

Larry proposes to end the meeting. Tom seconds. Meeting ends 9:04.