

**Dumont Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes  
October 19, 2015 at 7:30pm, Dumont Senior Center**

**Present-**

**Commissioners:** Tom Fisichella, Mike Kuhn (remotely), Ray Slaman, Abbie Slaman, Sally Tayeb

**Members:** Tara Barker, Rachel Bunin, Fred Feulns, Kathy Zitelli, Bill Zitelli

**Guests:** Don Morrell, Council Liaison, Arthur & Eileen Yeranian

**Call to order. Mike makes a motion to begin the meeting. Abbie seconds. Meeting begins at 7:30pm**

1. **Review Prior Meeting Minutes-** Ray suggests the minutes be tabled until the next meeting.
2. **Discussion of Homeowner Issues-** Mr. & Mrs. Yeranian state that the street tree in front of their house at 61 Clark Street was significantly damaged and reduced after Superstorm Sandy. They state that it is dangerous and in decline; in addition, it is lifting the sidewalk. Tom states he will visit the next day and make recommendations.
3. **Welcomes to New Attendees-** No new members.
4. **Commissioners-** Larry Tobias has tendered his resignation due to time constraints. Ray will recommend to the Mayor that Rachel Bunin be appointed to fill the term, since she has been doing important work for us as a member. In addition, he will discuss with Kathy Sheridan-Parrish that she accept another term. Her current term ends in December 2015.

5. **New Projects**- Dumont Resident Nancy Visocki has approached Ray and wants to help with DSTC work, helping with social media and newsletters. The Heritage Tree program will resume, chaired by Ray; Abbie and Rachel will help to identify the biggest/oldest trees in town, recognize and document them.

## 6. Arboretum

a. **Maintenance, inspections, general upkeep**- Michael, Tom and Bill are working to identify sections of the Arboretum in order to break down the work into smaller areas to assign each area to an individual or team to maintain. Tom and Bill will do a walk through tomorrow morning. October inspector was Larry Tobias, no report. Tom will mark the walkway for clearing leaves/plowing.

b. **Bricks Installation**- Seven new bricks have been installed. Discussion about advertising for the bricks: some suggestions were to bring flyers to Project Graduation meetings, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance parents (through Selzer/Honiss principals) Ads in TBN.

## 7. Community outreach and communication-

a. **Newsletter**-The Fall issue is out on the website and links from the FB page and Twitter (@DumontShadeTree). Still needs to be e-mailed on distribution list. Thirty copies will be printed for Library and Borough Hall.

b. **Halloween parade**- Rachel, Tom, Tara will represent at Halloween parade on Saturday. Bring homeowner packets and candy.

8. **Arbor Day 2016 planning**- Date will be April 30<sup>th</sup>

- a. Messages out to schools (Art and English teachers) so that they can have children participate and submit any projects for the contest.
  - b. Highlight Heritage Tree project
  - c. Think of a certificate of merit recipient
  - d. What will be our theme? Suggest t-shirt design and color
  - e. Sally suggests we plant a Little Leaf Linden.
9. **Winter Seminar-** Tom suggests the 19 page training course he developed years ago titled “Caring for Today, Planting for Tomorrow.” Ray says that tree care education are a good topic; we need a “hook” to get people out.
10. **Friends of the Shade Tree update, fundraising activities and projects-**
- a. **Signage / QR Codes-** Sally needs pretty photos of our trees, including leaves and flowers
  - b. **Lecture series-** New location is needed for November 4<sup>th</sup> and December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Abbie stated that Rafael had offered the Elks previously. Don Morrell will check to see if the Elks is available.

## **REGULAR BUSINESS**

11. **Tree Maintenance-** Tom says we are up-to-date except for some database work. A tree along the brook (at Druid) came down and had to be removed. Stump grinding is progressing well; the backlog of work should be completed by next week. There was a report of possible Emerald Ash Borer in Dumont—more information coming from DPW. There are several cases being pursued in municipal court, allegations of residents who have removed borough trees.

12. **Adopt-a-tree-** 25 trees will be planted this Fall. Locations are staked: 22 are for locations in ROW in front of homes, 2 are for the median on Holt and 1 at Memorial Park. Bill Z. suggests a certificate be given to all Adopt-a-Tree homeowners; Sally suggests they all be invited to Annual Meeting of FotST, to include dinner, and be recognized.
13. **Other open business-**
  - a. The NJ Shade Tree Federation Conference is October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> in Atlantic City. Ray, Abbie and Sally have been registered and will travel together on Saturday 10/24.
  - b. We are due to complete our third Five-Year plan. The grant to fund the writing of the plan has been approved by Council and will go out to bid to experienced forestry experts to complete.

**Mike makes a motion to close the meeting. Seconded and approved. Meeting ends at 9:07 pm.**