

# Dumont Shade Tree Commission

Monthly Meeting, Monday 3/19/2018

Senior Center, 39 Dumont Avenue, Dumont, NJ 07628

Meeting was attended by: Commissioners: Abbie Slaman, Ray Slaman (via telephone bridge), Tanya Zimmerman. We did not have a quorum. In Rachel's absence, minutes taken by Kathy Zitelli and transcribed by Abbie Slaman.

Members: Tara Barker, Kathy Zitelli, Bill Zitelli

Council Liaison: Carole Stewart

Guest: Veronica Greco (912)271-7456, vgreconj@gmail.com

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 p.m. by Tanya Z., seconded by Abbie S. It was regularly moved, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the prior meeting minutes as written.

## Homeowner issues:

- Tara's friend, Juan Guzman who lives on Depew, has asked her to have someone look at a tree that is lifting a sidewalk. She will obtain his exact address and/or have him fill out the proper form.
- 61 Howard — borough tree has encroached into homeowner driveway and arrangements will be made for removal.
- 85 Wolcott — a big tree on property needs trimming, but Shade Tree truck is being repaired.

## Arbor Day is April 28, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.

A Dumont G.S. troop will lead the opening flag ceremony with the guidance of George Harvilla (BSA Troop 65 Assistant Scoutmaster) with a second GS troop providing leadership with ceremonies. National Anthem performer will be suggested by Beth Synnott, Mayoral and Bergen County Freeholder presence and proclamation, special thank you's, Award of Merit to be voted on by commissioners (**see ACTION ITEM #1 BELOW**), Art and Poetry contest, Yarn Bombing (6 participants so far). Consensus is that Smoke Tree is preferred as Arbor Day Tree this year, subject to availability.

Annual winter seminar (3/5/18) — Heritage Trees and our Shared History; *identifying, managing, and recognizing the value of mature trees*. A first rate presentation because we had first class presenters. Vote needed to determine honoraria for the presenters (**see ACTION ITEM #2 BELOW**).

Community outreach and communication: the new website looks great and is ready to go live as soon as we decide which billing plan to go with. Tanya has some ideas as to images and will contact Jennette directly. The database for tree notices and permits needs incorporation to facilitate the tree maintenance communication procedures. Mail chimp training still needs to be done. Once Rachel has returned she will be trained. There is a problem sending the newsletter as an attachment. There will be a new procedure for this. Social media: facebook, instagram and twitter continue to get followers and views. YouTube needs new content.

Arboretum — Abbie has inspection duties for March. Report to come.

When Tom returns from vacation a shed will be built to store a hose reel and tools. It will be in full compliance with JLUB requirements.

Community use of the Arboretum — We anticipate another successful Twilight at the gazebo series in July (it's on the calendar) and the Boy Scout car show is already scheduled.

Tree Nursery — Mary Normoyle is working on identifying and relabeling all of the saplings and developing a spreadsheet to keep track of their progress. Tom Kelly has volunteered his Boy Scouts to help spread the mulch that was moved from Bill Zitelli's house.

## Regular Business



Update on maintenance support: Rebecca Vasquez is the person at Borough Hall who will be managing the tree reporting, needs training on how to report to DSTC through the database (right now she is sending emails to Ray).

Storm issues — some tree losses; almost all were Callery pear trees (they will be removed). There was minor property damage due to winds and heavy snow.

Tree permits — There was an increase after the storm, nothing unexpected.

Update from FOTST — Sally is absent. Seedlings planted earlier this month will be repotted for sale at Arbor Day as a fundraiser.

Adopt-A-Tree — tabled until next month.

#### New Business:

Veronica Greco, Howard Street. Had a Linden tree planted about 15 years ago at Memorial Park in memory of her father, a veteran of WWII and Korea. Since then her mother has passed, who also did work during WWII. Veronica would like to have a native tree, a Serviceberry, planted near the Linden. She is interested in the work of the DSTC and is pursuing her Master Gardener certification. Ray to follow through with her request.

Proposed Proclamation of the DSTC — *as an organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the environment we also recognize the obligation to support social and civil justice and as such we recognize the rights of students and citizens to organize and advocate for safety in the schools and in all public places.*

Bill proposes we participate officially as a group on March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Bergen County Courthouse and subsequent march in Hackensack. Ray adds that it would be good to make a formal statement of support, thinking we could step out of our boundaries to speak out for gun safety and stand behind the young people of our nation speaking on these issues on the importance of having safe environments to attend school and work. All present agreed it is a good idea to show support on this current issue by making statements on our web site, social media and carrying our DSTC banner at these events. **(SEE ACTION ITEM #3)**

Ray passed along several webinar opportunities via e-mail if anyone is interested.

It was regularly moved, seconded and passed unanimously to close the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

**ACTION ITEM #1:** To acknowledge the contributions to Bergen County's communities since 1946 and specifically the support of the work of the Friends of the Shade Tree in providing quality products used to beautify the Arboretum, as well as provide informative tours and lectures for our educational programs, we would like to honor Lupardi's Nursery as the Dumont Shade Tree 2018 Award of Merit.

***All agreed via e-mail.***

**ACTION ITEM #2:** To express gratitude in the expertise and preparation of the presentation of the DSTC Annual Seminar of 3/5/2018, Heritage Trees and our Shared History, that the following suggested honorarium be offered to Rob Gillies in the amount of \$100 and an honorarium be offered to Tom Kelly in the amount of \$75.

***All agreed via e-mail.***

**ACTION ITEM #3:** To make the following statement widely on our website and all social media and to participate by our presence and holding our banner high at the Bergen County March for Life in Hackensack NJ at the Courthouse and subsequent march (10 a.m.-noon):

***Dumont Shade Tree Commission is an organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the environment we also recognize the obligation to support social and civil justice and as such we recognize the rights of students and citizens to organize and advocate for safety in the schools and in all public places.***

***All agreed via e-mail.***