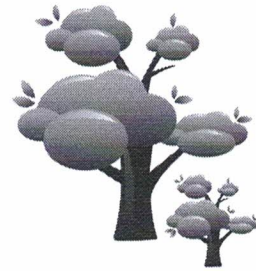


Meeting Minutes
DUMONT SHADE TREE COMMISSION
2/11/2019



Monday, 7:30-9 pm
Dumont Senior Center
Dumont Ave. Dumont, NJ 07628

Call to Order Tom Fisichella: 7:32/ 2nd Tanya Zimmerman.

In attendance: Tom Fisichella, Mary Normoyle, Abbie Slaman, Ray Slaman, Sally Tayeb, Tanya Zimmerman, Kathy Zitelli, Bill Zitelli. Excused: Rachel Bunin

There was a quorum.

1. All commissioners were present or excused; none were participating by phone.
2. The Minutes of the previous meeting of January 14, 2019 were accepted as written.
3. Homeowner issues: Heritage tree on Johnson Avenue — Resident had been worried about branch over front yard. R. Slaman had advised to wait for evaluation in the Spring, but homeowner, at the advice of a tree company, proceeded to have the heritage tree pruned heavily. R. Slaman discussed with the homeowner, who realized the mistake. No fine will be leveled. DSTC spoke with the tree company as well.
4. 2018 accomplishments (attached). Annual activities and accomplishments to be reported to the State DEP. Reporting procedures changed this year. This list is a Tree City USA requirement. Budget information is forthcoming from the borough and when received, the entire report will be forwarded to the State.
5. 2019 planning
 - a. Winter Seminar — postponed, pending speaker resources. Nature Conservancy is an outside possibility. Date to be determined.
6. ARBOR DAY
 - a. **10th Anniversary of the Arboretum**
Art Poster contest (Adopt-a-Tree theme) is in Board of Ed office for approval; flyers and letters to educators in process; banners can no longer be used on Washington Avenue because poles are no longer there, according to DPW. Tanya is getting estimates for yard signs; Award of Merit discussion, perhaps recipient will be another organization this year? (recipient will be revealed on Arbor Day), Tree will be chosen from Victoria's this year, species suggestions will be taken subject to availability at the nursery, Flag

Ceremony will be requested to be led by BSA Troop 64 and a GS troop(s) invited, National Anthem performer will be sought through EMC Studio, Mayoral proclamation, special thank you's

b. Communication (web site and social media promotion, Review sponsorship forms); We will probably need new sponsor string backpacks printed.

c. Prep: mulch (request in bags this year for easier moving around the Arboretum), maintenance, fresh soil, sound system will be requested through Tara; Ray will request DPW spruce up Arboretum just before Arbor Day.

7. Grants and funds for new projects: Tom — There is some buzz on Arboretum South, seeking survey for Sirosis Park and West Shore Drive, also seeking survey for area where nursery is located (Arboretum North), at the same time seeking survey for Arboretum to apply for grants to fund sprinkler system for Arboretum. Sally has contact info for CSX grants for environmental projects and will seek survey.

8. Community outreach and communication

a. Website www.dumontshadetree.org — Database updates in process for tree notices and permit requests

b. Newsletter — Rachel working on next issue.

Social media— more posts, more likes and follows, otherwise quiet this month.

c. New program suggestions for 2019 — possible message across all platforms: "the benefit of trees in storm water mitigation."

9. Arboretum

a. Maintenance, inspections, general upkeep: the message board will be updated, otherwise nothing to report except stray shopping carts.

b. water system, parking space paving was discussed

c. Brick installation: 23 have been ordered and will be unveiled Arbor Day 2019 and installed shortly thereafter. This will be promoted heavily in media, letters and e-mails inviting families, social media and newsletters.

Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Arboretum.

10. Tree Nursery: update from Mary Normoyle, Nursery Manager — deer have been nipping on the baby trees. Stray shopping carts pulled out of nursery. Mary has worked very hard to finish spreading all the mulch to keep the weeds at bay, and has plenty of landscape material for the near future. Fence on the docket for installation in Spring of 2019.

11. Adopt-a-Tree spring planting plans. Need promotion. There are just a few requests for Spring planting (would like 10-15). Discussed canvassing neighborhoods to promote the program. Sally proposed a bulk mail postcard campaign to all households.

Regular Business

12. FOTST: Annual seed planting gathering will be held 2nd Saturday in March (3/9) at 10 a.m.

Tony Lupardi, Lupardi's Nursery, will also provide plants at a good price for Arbor Day plant sale.

Bill Zitelli created a beautiful wood tree sign. There will be hand-painted message on both sides (thank you Kathy Zitelli): (1) Adopt-a-Tree (2) dumontshadetree.org

13. Tree Maintenance — 2018 summary report (attached) Tom Fisichella
During the Winter months, we are mostly marking trees in the database to monitor in 6 months (when leaves are on).

With few exceptions, tree stumps are removed the day after removal. If anyone spots any stumps, please alert Tom so he can have DPW remove them.

14. Tree permits – 2018 summary: 151 were approved in 2018. Of those, 5% were appropriate to be taken down. We need to continue to educate on the value of trees.

15. Other Open Business — Tom working with Tanya and Rachel to update the homeowner pack. Some of the flyers will be streamlined and consolidated.

16. The next meeting of the DSTC will be March 18th at the SENIOR CENTER.

Mary Normoyle moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m. Sally Tayeb seconded.

Dumont Shade Tree Commission
2018 Accomplishment report
Ray Slaman, President DSTC

Programs and Activities January to December 2018

- 1) Community Education Seminar (March 5, 2018); Dumont Shade Tree Commission presented a seminar examining the role Heritage Trees play in the health, vitality, and longevity of a community. CTE Rob Gillies discussed the history, and removal, of a 600+ year old oak tree; the value of the tree and the ultimate decision that led to its removal. Historian Tom Kelly presented the arboriculture history of Dumont from farm community to suburban community.
- 2) Arbor Day (April 28 2018) 13th Annual art and poetry contest, Certificate of Merit presentation, Mayoral proclamation.
- 3) Special event – Concerts at the Gazebo. We invited local musicians to present their talent at the Arboretum as a way to promote the DSTC Arboretum, highlight the work of the DSTC, and bring the community together on 4 consecutive Wednesdays in July. Our first event began with 35 in attendance and concluded with 80+ audience members.
- 4) Dumont Day (September) distribution of literature, collect donations, collect volunteer information and Adopt-a- tree requests and community outreach.
- 5) Special event; model train show hosted by DSTC to promote the DSTC Arboretum and the unique bond between the train, the Arboretum, and the Borough. More than 500 people attended the holiday event at the Dumont Library.
- 6) Engraved bricks —fund raising program to invite the community to purchase personalized bricks installed at the DSTC Arboretum. Ongoing activity that resulted in 19+ bricks purchased in 2018, raising over \$1,425.
- 7) Tree planting in the Borough: Adopt-A-Tree program planted 27 in the borough in coordination with homeowners for maintenance.
- 8) Memorial Tree Planting – DSTC plant a trees honoring notable and distinguished people with connections to the Borough. In 2018 we planted a tree for service member Claire Grecco, which was placed next to the tree for her husband and WWII veteran.
- 9) Engagement of the public through articles in the local paper (Twin Boro) and response to homeowner requests for tree evaluation.
- 10) Continued Shade Tree Newsletter as community outreach and information. Maintained outreach through social media such as YouTube and Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and others.
- 11) Supported non-profit fundraising organization - The Friends of the Shade Tree
- 12) Maintained the Dumont Arboretum – walking path and gazebo as a gathering place for the community.
- 13) Little Lending Library - Maintained a small lending library at the Arboretum. Encourage the community to visit the Arboretum, borrow a book or leave a book.
- 14) Water Feature / Eagle Scout collaboration – supported and partnered with Eagle Scout candidate Rex Harviila

15) Scholarships - Presented two scholarships to Dumont High School seniors through the non-profit arm Friends of the Shade Tree.

16) DSTC Nursery – maintained tree nursery. The 2000sf space utilizes pot-in-pot design to grown seedlings so that they can be planted in the Borough. 60+ trees have been planted in the initial installation with plans for up to 150 trees at the nursery. We will also act as a repository for donated trees to then be distributed to homeowners in the Borough.

17) Continuing Education – 5 members of DSCT attended the annual Shade Tree seminar on tree health, maintenance and community engagement. 2 members received “Core Training” certification.

18) 2018 Volunteer hours (Arbor Day, planning, tree planting, tree evaluating, community presentations, seminars)
1,300+ hours
