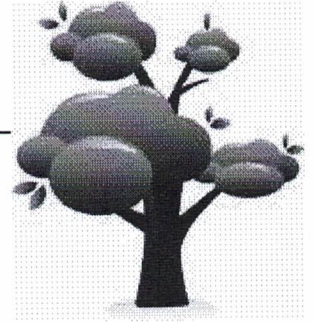




Minutes of the
DUMONT SHADE TREE COMMISSION
2/10/2020
Monday, 7:30-9 pm
Dumont Senior Center
Dumont, NJ 07628



Motion to call the meeting to order by Tanya Zimmerman, second Abbie Slaman; Ray Slaman called the meeting by gavel (hand-crafted by Tom Fisichella) at 7:32 p.m.

Attendance: Abbie Slaman (Commissioner), Ray Slaman (President), Tanya Zimmerman (Commissioner), Conor Gorman (Borough Council Liaison), Tara Barker (Member-at-large), Kathy Zitelli (Member-at-large), Bill Zitelli (Member-at-large), Ruth Havens, (homeowner), Ryan Metz (resident). There was no quorum.

- Review of previous meeting minutes tabled until the next meeting.
- Conor Gorman introduced as new Councilman; Ryan Metz introduced as previous DSTC Commissioner/Forester. Has returned after living elsewhere and abroad with new ideas.
- **Discussion of homeowner issues:** Ruth Havens, Randolph Road, concerned about the neighbor at 170 East Linden who obtained a tree removal permit and then took down 11 trees, leaving a gap in the fence and increased activity of wildlife, traffic and an unprotected borough tree. She is also concerned that the current ordinance is not adequate to protect our community forest and the permit fees do not deter clear-cutting. Ray Slaman stated that he is aware of the history of the events and is in agreement with the need to revisit the Ordinance. He asked our Liaison to bring to the attention of the Council and the Ordinance Committee that changes, or a new Ordinance needs to be considered to protect borough assets. Tanya Zimmerman suggested that a waiting period be introduced for new homeowners in obtaining any permits for tree removals. Ruth Havens was thanked for her input to this discussion and her support of the work of the DSTC.
- **DPW Luncheon:** Friday, Feb. 14, 2020 the commissioners and volunteers will provide a Valentine lunch of sandwiches and home-baked desserts to show our appreciation to the DPW who work so diligently all year to make Dumont a safe place to live.
- The seminar, originally scheduled for 3/2/2020, will be rescheduled for a later date.
- **Arbor Day** will take place in Dumont Saturday, April 25, from 1-3 p.m.
 - An Award of Merit recipient will be chosen (not yet determined);
 - Boy Scouts will be asked to do flag ceremony;
 - National Anthem singer will be recommended by Erin Caley;
 - Friends of the Shade Tree will have a table;
 - Bricks will be installed by then;
 - Liaison will arrange for Mayor to read Proclamation and introduce the Award of Merit recipient;
 - Tanya Zimmerman has been managing the Poster Contest (Superintendent approved the flyers and they should be going out through the schools later this week to students K-8).
 - Tanya also presented ideas for the shopping bags and imprint design ideas.
 - Arbor Day Sponsors will be recognized in speech, in participants' gift bags, on the website.

- Arbor Day Tree will be an understory tree to replace the dogwood that died (north of the gazebo).
- **Community outreach and communication:** website – www.dumontshadetree.org, newsletter, social media (Facebook, IG, Twitter) all have had positive activity.
- **Arboretum:** Bill Zitelli will visit Visions to request donation in order to purchase bags of mulch from Lupardi's Nursery, to be spread before Arbor Day. Thank you Kathy Zitelli for keeping the informational kiosk up-to-date with the latest newsletter and other announcements. Thank you Bill Zitelli for replacing the door on the little library at the arboretum.
- **Tree Nursery:** The gates and all fencing is complete (80' x 25' –it can now be found on google maps, minus the fence) Phil Malinowski has taken charge of maintenance, has built a mulch bed. A second raised bed is planned. A dedication ceremony is planned for the Spring.
- Ryan Metz had some ideas and suggestions on some locations, specifically areas in Memorial Park (alongside the walking path near Linden Avenue) which he thought could use some additional trees or native plantings, perhaps working with the new 1T.org global reforestation program. Ray stated that DSTC wants to target areas for tree planting that will make an impact. In the parks we need to work with that department as far as usage. Ryan also suggested other ideas in the community such as pollinator habitats or perhaps other areas where improvements would make a difference.
- **Regular Business**
 - Ray has met with the Mayor and is awaiting a letter of reappointment for a new term.
 - DSTC budget for 2020 remains \$9,000, unchanged for several years. This funds Arbor Day, Education, tree planting, other projects
 - Tree Maintenance: There were 400 inspections in 2019. Ray met with the Mayor about resources (including monetary) to accomplish these tasks.
 - DPW Superintendent: Anthony Schiraldi, Arborist Dennis Banoff
 - Tree permits: 2019=151 (2018=116) These 151 permits represent the removal of over 250 healthy trees that were removed.
 - Other Open Business: Tanya presented a proposed event shirt for commissioners and volunteers, to be printed, quantity of 10, in time for Arbor Day.
 - The next meeting will be March 16, 2020, at the Senior Center.

Announcements:

THE DUMONT SHADE TREE COMMISSION (DSTC)
HAS COMPLIED WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT,
HAVING SENT NOTICE TO THE RECORD, RIDGEWOOD NEWS, FILED WITH THE MUNICIPAL CLERK
AND POSTED ON THE BOROUGH'S OFFICIAL BULLETIN BOARD.

ALL DUMONT RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND OPEN MEETINGS OF THE DSTC

BUY A BRICK, ENJOY THE GAZEBO (At the Arboretum on West Shore Avenue)

For more information visit www.dumontshadetree.org