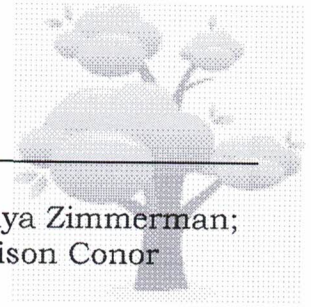




# MINUTES

DUMONT SHADE TREE COMMISSION  
7/20/2020  
Monday, 7:30-9 pm  
GAZEBO at the ARBORETUM  
Dumont, NJ 07628



Attendees: Commissioners Abbie Slaman, Ray Slaman, Sally Tayeb, Tanya Zimmerman; Members at Large Tara Barker, Kathy Zitelli, William Zitelli; Council Liaison Conor Gorman.

Call to Order at 7:33 p.m. by President Ray Slaman

1. *First meeting in person since February, following COVID procedures – masks, 6' distance*
2. Review Prior Meeting Minutes
3. COVID 19 update: the state has relaxed some rules. We are continuing to operate in a safe fashion in accordance with CDC recommendations.
4. Discussion of homeowner issues/questions – (1) Homeowner on Erie Street is having plumbing work done which may affect the stability and health of a town sweetgum tree. Borough administrator is also involved; (2) Colonial Parkway – being addressed by Ray and Tom; (3) a homeowner on New Milford (corner of Prospect) had issue with PSE&G trimming of tree in front of her home, Ray and Abbie inspected the tree which looked to be trimmed properly but homeowner was upset that the branches had landed on her bushes. She called PSE&G to express her concerns and they are responding directly.
5. Concerts at the Gazebo –
  - a. Recap first 3 events: successful evenings, great talent, good weather so far, all participants and attendees were respectful about mask-wearing and social distancing; Facebook Live and Instagram Live have been working well. Suggest that people (even in attendance in person) log on to the FB livestream and “host a watch party” to boost viewers.
6. Other Summer activities: Boy Scout car show was cancelled (probably by the borough)
7. Other projects/suggestions?
8. Community outreach and communication
  - a. Website – [www.dumontshadetree.org](http://www.dumontshadetree.org)
  - b. Newsletter (late summer may include FotST news and gazebo concerts), social media (Facebook 566 people like our page, 591 follow our page; Instagram 262 followers; YouTube 13 subscribers, 13 videos)
9. Arboretum
  - a. Maintenance, inspections, general upkeep (monthly inspection: Tanya Zimmerman – knockout roses are coming back; CSX truck is present; more benches needed, perhaps revisit fundraising; appreciation from the public as to the beauty and the upkeep of the space). Kathy Zitelli – some of the bushes need trimming (Ray will advise DPW).
  - b. Bill Zitelli has a new volunteer (from the gazebo concert) and will assign one of the smaller beds to begin.
  - c. 22 bricks will be installed over the next few weeks in a safe, socially distant manner / a few more bricks have been sold in the meantime
10. Tree Nursery – Veronica Grecco is a new volunteer and has been working every other day with upkeep. It is starting to look very nice. Some of the small trees are now large enough to be moved into larger pots and some of the trees in pots may be able to be placed in homeowners' yards as soon as next year. Maintenance/weeding schedule is in the works. A second raised bed is planned

## **Regular Business**

11. DSTC budget: Arbor Day, Education, tree planting, Delong Ave. (Dumont lost about 12 trees in the borough project and we will plant about that many trees over in the Grant Ave. area as replacements in the fall Adopt-a-Tree planting.

12. Tree Maintenance (Ray speaking for Tom) DPW is continuing to operate on limited schedule; tree maintenance requests are now coming in and being addressed with emergencies first. More specific data will be forthcoming at the next meeting.
13. Tree permits – we are getting about 5 requests per week (20 per month). More than this time last year. In general, 8 out of 10 requests to remove are healthy trees. Will continue to address future ordinance options addressing the benefits to the community of managing trees on private property.
14. Update from FOTST
  - a. The garden bed volunteers are planning a home garden tour Aug. 8 at 10 a.m., 15-20 minutes at each of 8 houses, ending at Sally's house. This may be a multi-evening event.
  - b. Tom got a price quote for fixing the irrigation for the Arboretum. Will present and request a grant from CSX.

**Other Open Business**

15. August 17 will likely be a remote ZOOM meeting since it will be dark sooner (perhaps outside at the Gazebo at 7:00 p.m.) Stay tuned.
16. Tanya made a motion to adjourn, Sally seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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.

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

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

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For more information visit [www.dumontshadetree.org](http://www.dumontshadetree.org)