



# Meeting Minutes

## DUMONT SHADE TREE COMMISSION

11/16/2020

Monday, 7:30-9:00 pm

**Zoom** <https://attpm.zoom.us/j/9159594987>

### Inspection calendar for 2020

Jan	Kathy and Bill
Feb	Tom
Mar	Abbie
Apr	Ray
May	Kathy Z
Jun	Sally
Jul	Tanya
Aug	Tanya
Sept	Abbie
Oct	Mary
Nov	Rachel
Dec	Tara

Call to Order 7:30pm Abbie opened/Rachel 2<sup>nd</sup> motion

Attendance: Ray Slaman, Abbie Slaman, Rachel Bunin (minutes), Conor Gorman, Tom Fisichella, Tara Barker, Bill Zitelli, Tanya Zimmerman, Sally Tayeb

1. Review Prior Meeting Minutes Accepted by Abbie/ 2<sup>nd</sup> motion Tanya

2. COVID 19 update

- Conor updated us: Basically, things are 'bad' we aren't close to the end of the pandemic. Doing all we can to stay safe. The DSTC message to the community is stay home if you can, stay safe, wear a mask when you go out. Following Governor's office guidelines

3. Discussion of homeowner issues/questions (if any)

- Trying to find a way to get homeowners in on our Zoom meetings
- Tom F is handling issues as they come in, as best as possible under the circumstances. Homeowners are complaining about delays, but DPW working on leaves and dealing with Covid-19 safety precautions as they work
- Neighbor to neighbor issues: DSTC evaluates the trees for risk and give our assessment to the borough. If a citation is necessary if there's a risk or danger. We do not engage with neighbor conflicts
- 145 Virginia Ave: a borough tree at the end of a driveway by Howard. There's a visibility issue. It's a good tree, no risk. Has been there for many years, as has been the driveway. Not sure why 'now' it's an issue for homeowner. Ray will write up a report.
- Sally reporting (again) for past 3 years a very dead tree behind neighbor on Blanche Court. Needs to be removed but needs a crane. DPW took care of some of the trees in the area, this one is at risk for falling and is on the list to be taken down.

4. Holiday activities + Other projects/suggestions?

- a. Wreath making cancelled due to COVID.. several discussions for options, came to conclusion had to pass this year. Not safe, not viable.
- We have some \$600 dollars left in account after giving \$1000. (two \$500 scholarships to very qualified applicants ) last year. Since won't have our wreath event fundraiser this year, we'll still plan to give a smaller scholarship this year if we have a qualified applicant

b. Holiday concert – virtual event dates, lineup discussion

- Ray working with Erin Caley to see if we can do a fully virtual event.
- Live/Remote performers at home or gazebo
- Planning time slots? Should we conflict with or complement the 12/11/2020 Town event?
- Town event: 12/11/2020: drive by through Memorial Park with 12/12 rain date
- We will discuss with Mayor/council/ planners of event to determine best option
- Conor will look into the best option for us to contribute
- Consensus was to try to get a 7pm 12/11 timeslot
- c. Tree labels for the Arboretum Sally working with Written in Stone to find a way to create the signs. Discussion of options for most affordable/durable. Current signs are fading.
- d. Walking tour curriculum: Rachel has Tom's folder, will start a walking tour document to be available through a website, maybe also printed. Rachel will work with Ray to put this together.
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5. Education – annual conference – NJSTF recap.

- All who attended agreed that it was very valuable. Great presentations
- Videos are available for 1 year from conference
- We got all our CEUs for the year

6. Community outreach and communication

- a. Website – [www.dumontshadetree.org](http://www.dumontshadetree.org) kept updated- was a problem with the link to fotst.org, Sally was working with GoDaddy to remedy
- b. Newsletter—Rachel published November 13, Tanya will send out via MailChimp Digital ONLY version this time. Rachel will try to add a 'Resources' page for next issue. All suggestions are welcome.
- c. social media Abbie reporting no changes, FB very active, our best outreach

7. Arboretum

- a. Maintenance, inspections, general upkeep (monthly assignments)
  - Rachel reported all good, some deer damage to trees, Ray will put a plastic sleeve to help protect trees.
  - Fountain: shut off? Freeze for winter? Will talk to Rex for best plan
  - Corkscrew willow was trimmed
- b. New gardeners/volunteers
- c. Brick installation / Brick sales: three bricks on order. If they come in before freeze/snow Ray will install them. Sally will keep Ray informed of delivery

8. Tree Nursery –

- a. Maintenance / weeding: Ray, Sally, and Rachel put bales of hay donated by Zendiggi Kabob house into nursery for winter protection
- b. Mulching done
  - Adopt-a tree flag is installed
- c. Dedication planned for after COVID-19
  - d. Second raised bed installed and trees were moved into the bed by Ray, Abbie, Bill, Kathy Z, and Rachel

- 9. Dedication and memorial – Kathy Sheridan bench Kathy: was made from scrap. Bill and Tom refinished the bench with reclaimed wood. It's set to go in a spot next to the Library. Will put in a cement pad for the bench. (3' x 5') will have plaque for dedication. Grace and James Parrish will contribute art and perhaps to the ceremony...and are being consulted as we plan this.
- Memorial space, will have a memorial space, Ryan Normoyle will be a centerpiece. Working on a location and ideas for the space

**Regular Business**

10. Annual activities; Arbor Day, Education, tree planting, other projects

We will have an Arbor Day tree planting and keep the word out that the Shade Tree is still functioning during the pandemic

11. Tree Maintenance – moving inspection responsibility to DPW. Tree app

Tom reported that most inspections are reassuring residents and handholding. He's working his way



through. We need more help for him for inspections. The town has to give us some extra staff. PSEG will trim all trees over wires in 2021 starting in March. PSEG does this every 4 year. Guy Vogt is still our contact/liaison. DSTC needs to be collaborating with PSEG. We have a good relationship through Guy. We have expressed the need for DSTC to be included in all discussions regarding trees in the borough.

12. Tree permits Reported that 10 trees in town were taken out without our knowledge or no permit. Ray looking into this.

Good news is we have a lot of permits \$\$\$ in the fees for new trees/ Bad news is we lost a lot of trees through permits...

30 Permits in November not all heritage but many are healthy mature trees. Ray was able to save one on Johnson Avenue.

13. Update from FOTST – meeting, fundraising, activities and projects

FOTST.org went down sometime last month. Rachel discovered this while working on the newsletter. Sally jumped right on it. Worked with GoDaddy and said they were excellent. Very quickly restored the site. Sally reaching out to Mike Kuhn to get whatever he still has to keep site going.

14. Other Open Business-NONE

15. Dec 21 will be a remote ZOOM / dial meeting

Tom closed meeting 8:56pm Rachel 2<sup>nd</sup> motion

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)