

Dumont Shade Tree Commission meeting minutes
January 11th, 2016 7:30pm at the Dumont Senior Center

Present-Ray Slaman, Rachel Bunin, Tom Fisichella, Kathy Sheridan, Abbie Slaman, Mike Kuhn, Sally Tayeb

Guests-Kathy Zitelli, Bill Zitelli, Tara Barker

Kathy makes a motion to call the meeting to order. Rachel 2nds. The meeting begins at 7:30.

1. **Review Prior Meeting Minutes**-Tom makes a motion to accept the December 2015 as written. Rachel 2nds. The Minutes are accepted.
2. **Discuss Homeowner issues**- Bill Zitelli who lives at 136 Madison Avenue says he would like to remove a Mulberry tree on the side of his house. He would like to know if he needs a permit. Ray says yes. If the tree were less than 6" around and less than 10' tall he would not need a permit.
3. **Welcome our new council liaison Lou DiPaolo**- Lou is in Trenton and unable to make the meeting.
4. **Arbor Day 2016 Review and planning**- Ray starts a discussion that our budget has been cut and we need to be judicious with our spending. We will have to limit the number of t-shirts given out to cut spending. Rachel says maybe we should think of a different prize that is not a t-shirt. Do we make enough with sponsors? There are other suggestions for prizes. Maybe string backpacks or water bottles. A backpack could still have sponsors and tree artwork. We would be able to have sponsors add a coupon or something into the backpack. We will research this. Kathy talks about deadlines for the Art contest. It is decided to have the deadline for Art Submissions be April 8th. The fliers will be in the schools and out on social media at the beginning of March. Kathy will also reach out to Boy Scout Troop 64 to secure their participation in the flag raising. Ray will reach out to Beth Synott for someone to sing the Anthem. Louis will handle notifying the Mayor and Council. Ray says our Award of Merit is going to Craig Grothues this year. He has been very supportive of the commission thru the years and is a science teacher at Dumont High School. Ray is very optimistic about getting kids on board for the Heritage Tree Contest. Ray will be inspecting the entries. The 6th grade science teachers at Honiss School are interested and Ray said he will go talk to them and give them points on measuring trees etc. The contest is gaining momentum.
5. **Arboretum**-
 - a. Monthly Inspection List.
 1. January- Tara
 2. February- Rachel
 3. March- Abbie
 4. April- Tom
 5. May- Ray
 6. June- Sally
 7. July- Bill and Cathy
 8. August- Kathy
 9. September- Bill and Cathy
 10. October- Tara

11. November- Kathy

12. December-Rachel

Mike brings up the shopping carts that get left at the Arboretum. He says it is a violation and if the DPW pick them up they would then collect a fine from the establishment.

- b. Sally talks about signage. She says most of the signs will be 4" by 5". She agrees with most that there is too much into on her mock up and will rework it and send it out so others can see it. She wonders how many 8" by 10" signs we would want. Ray is not sure we need large signs. Sally brings it up for possibly the Space Tree. Not everyone has a smart phone to read the QR code.
- c. Tom has a Bird House that he would like to install in the Arboretum that will dispense a flier/map for any visitors to take. Ray will be updating the Kiosk.

6. Community Outreach and Communication

- a. **Newsletter**- Rachel has the Winter Newsletter out. She asks if Mike can add it to the new website. The spring newsletter will be out sometime after the seminar.
 - b. **Website**- Rachel asks if we have an instagram. Abbie says no and Rachel will make one.
 - c. **DSTC Winter Seminar March 8th 2016**- Ray is researching a speaker to come and talk about trees and the environment. Something along the lines of climate change and what can be done locally.
 - d. **Training and seminars**-Ray says be on the lookout for emails with details of training opportunities. There are some webinars also.
7. **Update from the FOTST**- Ray says Monday the 18th will be the Annual Meeting for the board of Friends. It will be at 7pm at the Senior Center. It is a potluck. Discussion will include the agenda for the year. Sally says she needs a speaker for the February meeting of the lecture series. It is decided to make it a garden club meeting and Sally asks Rachel to put it an announcement in the Twinboro. Rachel says the scholarship info has been brought to the High School. She will reach out to them again to see if there is any interest.
8. **Five year plan**- Ray says he has approval for the \$3,000 grant to begin writing the 5 year plan.

REGULAR BUSINESS

9. **DPW Luncheon**- It will be Friday February 12th. Everyone is welcome to donate for the lunch as well as bring goodies for desert.
10. **Maintenance**- Tom says there have been 139 permits from the beginning of the permit process thru 2015. There is a tree inspection crew of Tom, Abbie and Kathy to deal with Hazardous town tree reports.
11. **Ordinance update**- Ray says we are up to date on permits. The permit ordinance should include the fee and fines. The Ordinance Committee is working on it.
12. **Other**- Tom say Joe Ulrich is interested in a statue/art installations at the Arboretum. Details need to be worked out.

Rachel moves to close the meeting. Tom seconds. The meeting ends 9:06