

Dumont Shade Tree Commission meeting minutes
February 8th, 2016 7:30pm Dumont Senior Center

Present-Kathy Sheridan, Rachel Bunin, Tom Fisichella, Abbie Slaman, Ray Slaman by phone

Guests- Rafael Riquelme for Louis DiPaolo, Tara Barker, Bill Zitelli

Absent- Mike Kuhn

Rachel makes a motion to begin the meeting. Kathy seconds. The meeting begins at 7:30pm

1. **Review prior meeting minutes-**Kathy says they are not finished and she will owe for January and February at the next meeting.
2. **Discussion of Homeowner issues-** No homeowners are present. Tom has checked a tree at 100 Dixon. He says we will monitor the tree.
3. **Arbor Day 2016-** There is a discussion on past years t-shirts. Abbie in the past has checked with 3 places and gotten bids and picked the lowest. She feels that the way to save money is to limit who gets the backpack/t-shirt. It will save us to give only to contest entrants and winners. Kathy has a sample of the string backpack and Abbie says it should be polyester otherwise printing is difficult. We also have to get the sponsor flier circulated. Kathy has the letter to teachers out. She also has the flier for the Art Contest that will be printed and distributed to the schools. The 2016 Award of Merit is Craig Grothues and Louis will make the presentation. We need to get the word out. Rachel will get info to the Twinboro. Kathy will get the contest fliers to the Senior Center and Library. We will have snacks and a drink, something simple like cookies and lemonade. The Heritage Tree contest is going well. Almost a dozen have been nominated so far. Ray is working on a prize could be for the largest tree.
4. **DSTC seminar March 2016-** Global Climate/Local Effect- Ray has the speaker. Tineke Thio, PhD. has a presentation. He has put in for CEU's and is waiting to hear back. The seminar will be 3/7/2016 from 7:30 to 9:30. The NJ Shade Tree Federation will send out the info to other Shade Tree Commissions. Rachel will get info to the Twinboro and everyone will pass the word around to Dumont residents.
5. **Community outreach and communication-** Rachel has the winter newsletter out. She will put the spring newsletter out after the seminar and possibly after Arbor Day. There are a few copies for the Library. Abbie emailed it to a science teacher at Selzer. Rachel will email Bart Lidofsky of Bergen.com with info of the seminar and Arbor Day.
6. **Arboretum-**
 - a. Help with Maintenance of the arboretum- Bill says he will notify people of a meeting in March. 6 of the 11 beds have someone who will take care of them. The large bed on Madison Ave needs maintenance. We will check to see if the sponsor of the bed from the Recreation flower bed program is still going to maintain it. Otherwise we may have another landscaper who would want to do it. Bill and Ray say the sign is old and could be updated. Maybe something along the lines of the sign at the Dawn Totten park. We need to work on having the DPW take the weeds away when that starts. As far as brick installation before Arbor Day it is decided to not rush the installation. We will display them on a table like we did last year.
7. **Update from FOTST-** They had their annual meeting in January. Sally gave out the financial form. Tom would like to have in reserve 5 years of annual costs and fees. Rachel states that the scholarship is in the hands of Dumont High School. The scholarship is open to Dumont High school students.

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8. **DPW Luncheon-** It is scheduled for February 19th 2016. Ray is handling the order and anyone around that day who would like to bring desert is welcome to do so.
9. **Tree Maintenance-** Tom says it is slow right now. It will pick up in the summer.

10. **Ordinance update**- The ordinance is currently deficient. We will submit a fee and penalty schedule. This will help the courts have a clear understanding if there is a violation.
11. **Other**- Ray says our 5 year plan expired in December of 2015. We have to the end of 2016 to have our new plan submitted. Ray asks everyone to think of something ambitious that we would like to accomplish. How about planting 1.000 trees. Abbie has a question on how many trees have been taken down and how many have been planted. Less than half of the trees taken down have been replaced. When we plant trees we need people to take care of them for the first two years. They need to be watered.

Tom makes a motion to end the meeting. Rachel seconds. Meeting ends at 8:47.