

**Dumont Shade Tree Commission meeting minutes**  
**March 21<sup>st</sup> 2016 7:30pm Dumont Senior Center**

**Present-** Ray Slaman, Abbie Slaman, Tom Fisichella Sally Tayeb, Kathy Sheridan

**Guests-** Lou DiPaolo, Council Liaison, Bill Zitelli, Kathy Zitelli,

**Meeting called to order at 7:36pm**

1. **Review prior meeting minutes-**wait till Kathy arrives. She is running late.
2. **Discussion of homeowner issues-** none present
3. **Arbor Day 2016 review and planning-** Ray runs through how the day will go. Louis will present the merit award to Craig Grothues. Ray will give a Bio to Louis to help in the write up of the presentation. There will be a Mayoral Proclamation given by Mayor Kelly. We have the Art Contest and Big Tree Contest entrants to be acknowledged. Tom and Ray spoke at Honiss and Selzer and there is a lot of enthusiasm. They spoke to 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, approximately 180, and gave a lesson in how to measure a tree. All who find a big tree will be given a certificate and the largest tree nominee will receive \$100 prize. The entry fliers are out for the Art Contest. Kathy will call the secretaries at each school asking for a reminder announcement as the deadline approaches. She is working on the bags and printing. Art contest winners will receive a ribbon. For Advertising Rachel will put in the Twinboro. Ray believes Tara has a new tree city flag. Kathy is donating a new 4 by 6 American flag and Boy Scout Troop 64 is on board to handle the flag raising ceremony. We have someone to sign the national anthem.
4. **DSTC Seminar follow-up-** Everyone feels the seminar went well. We had 50 people from many different towns come to listen to Tineke Thio PhD. speak on how to locally make a difference for the environment/global warming. Ray submitted the list for CEU's and may follow up with an email to attendees with a summary of actions that individuals can take. Ray also mentions that there is a sidewalk sale/earth day celebration in Cresskill on 4/23 if anyone is interested in going.
5. **Community Outreach and communication-**
  - a. **Newsletter-** Rachel is absent
  - b. **Training and seminars through NJ Shade Tree CEU-** Ray mentions there is a new coordination at the state Shade Tree. He will pass along any educational opportunities that come out.
6. **Arboretum-** Bill Zitelli reports that Sally has a bin to set up on the north end of the Arboretum where weeds can be dumped. Tom would like to divide between weeds and compost. Sally would like to have a planting in April. She will get the word out for a date. Tom has a couple of boxwood bushes that have been donated and will go dig them up and find a spot. Tom has also been working on what should be used to fertilize the trees at the Arboretum. He will check with nurseries. The fertilizer has a special enzyme. He is figuring out how much we need and the cost. DSTC will pay for it. Kathy reports that the bricks have been ordered and hopefully we will have them for Arbor Day.
7. **FOTST Update-** Sally and Tom have secured a \$1,500 grant from Mariners Bank for signage. Tom is getting the posts for installation. Sally asks for help in checking the QR codes and making sure they match the name. Also if someone would proofread for spelling and accuracy. She also mentions that we possibly should have a QR code for buy-a-brick. She also asks that everyone think if they know

anyone who may want to serve on the Board of FOTST. FOTST has made great strides in fulfilling its mandate by getting a grant for the signs.

## **REGULAR BUSINESS**

8. **Maintenance**- Tom Brings up a Hazardous Tree Request at 146 Magnolia. The homeowner wishes to remove the tree believing that roots have done something to his driveway. Ray says that as our mandate is to protect healthy town trees. We would not remove a healthy tree. Ray says there is an appeal process and the homeowner has, as a next step the option to petition the council.
9. **Budget update**- Ray states he has not gotten an answer on the budget. He says that the \$25 permit fees by statute are Shade Tree controlled and managed.
10. **Other**-Abbie brings up the seed packets that we normally distribute during the Memorial Day Parade. They may be too expensive for our budget. We should try to think of other ideas. Ray says the packets have always been an important part of our community outreach. Tom also brings up an idea for the future. Something along the lines as last year's Railroad show. He has an idea for a Children's Garden Show that would have stations such as planting, crafts, story time etc. Tom also has a blueprint for possible rehabilitation of Sorosis Park and the walkway land that runs between Madison ave and the park. Ray also reminds everyone that there is an idea of having art installations at the Arboretum Walkway.

**Kathy makes a motion to end the meeting. Sally 2nds. Meeting ends at 8:58.**