

Dumont Shade Tree Commission meeting minutes

April 18th, 2016, 7:30pm Dumont Senior Center

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

Guests- Kathy Zitelli, Bill Zitelli, Guy Vogt PSE&G, Louis DiPaolo, Council liaison, Eileen Hinphy 144 Lincoln, Linda Papa 32 Moore Ave.

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

1. **Review meeting minutes-** Kathy says they are not done and will have to review next meeting.
2. **Homeowner issues-** Eileen Hinphy, 144 Lincoln is in attendance to say there is a town tree on her property that has limbs falling and she has an issue with roots and her sewer line and it is frustrating. Tom says he has seen the tree. Ray explains that the Borough employs an arborist who will look and weigh the health of the tree. Ray says we will evaluate the tree at a more detailed level. We will have the arborist go up in the bucket and take a look. He explains that tree roots get into a sewer pipe that is already broken. The tree did not break the pipe. We almost never remove a tree due to pipes. He also explains that if after a review of the tree the homeowner disagrees with our assessment there are appeals that can be made to the Council. For now the STC will reassess the trees. Linda Papa 32 Moore Ave is also in attendance. She is a neighbor and having issues with her pipe, limbo pipe from curb to street. Ray says the pipes should be fixed. The STC will assess the trees.
3. **PSE&G Tree Trimming-** Guy Vogt, certified arborist with PSE&G says they are coming to trim in town within the next few months. They do trimming on an every 4 year schedule and it is time. Lewis Tree Service looks at the work ahead of time and he will also meet with the borough administrator. The Board of Public Utilities controls what PSE&G does and because of past outages wants them to look at trimming more aggressively. Guy says they will continue to trim for clearance as in the past and not going to cut conductor to sky. Ray asks where is the risk, with limbs or whole trees. Guy says most failure is with a whole tree. They will do risk assessment for the whole tree. If a Hazardous tree is seen they will alert the borough. Ray will keep in touch through emails with any concerns or questions. Rachel suggests we put information in the newsletter alerting residents that work will be done around town. The work should be done by December 31st. Tom asks if we would get any replacement if trees are lost. Guy says that is not in the budget.
4. **Arbor Day-** Ray says he will bring water and lemonade. Everyone will contribute cookies etc. We have volunteers from the Honor Society at the high school that could help pass out prizes or help the Friends of the Shade Tree set up. Ray will get the Grothues plaque this week and Louis will confirm that the proclamation will be ready. Robert Quilles will sing our national anthem and Rebecca Slaman will sign. The boy scouts are on board for raising the American and Tree City Flag. Tom says the DPW will dig the home and have the water turned on. The 2016 tree is the NJ State Memorial Tree, a dogwood and will be planted just north of the Gazebo. Kathy says there are 47 entries in the Art and Poetry contest. The judging is done and there are 12 winners. We ordered 80 backpacks and they are printed with Dumont Arbor Day 2016 and the list of sponsors on the back. We have 24

sponsors and the backpacks will be stuffed with menus, advertisements, candy, snacks, and bubbles. All entrants will receive a certificate and winners will receive ribbons. She also says she has 5 bricks and hopes that the rest will be ready to be displayed during the ceremony. Sally says the Garden Committee will have tables and shelves and will be selling plants. Ray says the Heritage Tree Contest has about 12-15 entries. He has been out measuring. The winning tree will have a plaque put on it and the person who nominated it will have their name on the plaque. All entries receive a certificate and the winning tree nominee will receive a \$100 prize.

5. Community Outreach

- a. **Newsletter**- Rachel says the draft of the spring newsletter is out. She will publish it after Arbor Day. She will be looking for photos and some art. She will come up with something on the PSE&G trimming. She asks if the newsletter is getting out to our email list. Ray asks Mike if he has been getting new names for the list. Mike says if anyone has emails put them into an excel sheet and they can be added in bulk. He will send out the spring newsletter when it is ready.
- b. **Website, Social Media**- the Facebook page is very busy. Rachel and Abbie have been posting relevant articles. Kathy has posted info for the Arbor Day Art and Poetry Contest on various Dumont FB pages.
- c. **Training and seminars the NJ Shade Tree**- Ray has been and will continue to email any educational opportunities that he sees to everyone.

6. Arboretum

- a. **Maintenance**- Bill has 2 signs for beds 2 and 3 asking for help maintaining those beds. They will be up on Arbor Day. There is a sign at the weed bin saying that it is not for garbage. The weeds will be picked up every Thursday. Everyone is asking for mulch and the DPW will see what they can do before Arbor Day. Bill says we still need a garbage pail at the north end of the Arboretum. The tree and the light post that we lost in the wind are being worked on.
 - b. **Brick installation**- for Arbor Day the bricks will be displayed on a table and we will figure a day for installation after.
7. **FOTST**-Sally asks about the scholarship. Rachel says we did have applicants and we may have two winners. The award will be made at the Dumont Senior Award Night at the High School. Sally says the Garden Committee has been busy gardening. Tom says the 28 signs are printed and going on wood and posts.

REGULAR BUSINESS

8. **Tree Maintenance**- Tom says we have lost a few trees none of which were large problems.
9. **Adopt-a-tree** – Ray says this is on hold waiting for the budget. Maybe we will have a planting in the fall.
10. **Ordinance update**- Ray says we have had no answer on the permit fees. Louis will bring it up again. Ray has met with the chair of the ordinance committee with his recommendations for fines if work is done without a permit. His recommendation is \$100 dollar fine for the first offence and \$500 for second offence. Also if a borough tree is taken down by a homeowner fines up to \$2000 plus value of the tree.

Rachel makes a motion to end the meeting. Tom seconds. Meeting ends 9:07pm.