

**Dumont Shade Tree Commission meeting minutes
May 15, 2017 Dumont Senior Center 7:30pm**

Present; Commissioners - Ray Slaman, Rachel Bunin, Michael Kuhn, Tom Fisichella, Abbie Slaman, Sally Tayeb

Guests; Bill Zitelli, Kathy Zitelli, Tanya Zimmerman, Tara Barker

Council liaison Lou DiPaolo

Call to Order; Tom Fisichella, Mike seconds

Home Owner issues; none presented

Kathy Sheridan submitted her resignation. Ray talked about her valuable service and the contributions she has made over the years. Kathy expressed a desire to remain part of the group but without commissioner status or responsibilities. Ray reluctantly accepted her resignation. Ray called for new nominations to fill Kathy's post. Rachel Nominated Tanya Zimmerman. Tanya asked about the role and responsibilities and when the commission term expires. The commission discussed the activities with Tanya and that the term runs through December 2020. Tanya accepted the nomination and Ray will present Tanya to the Mayor for consideration and appointment.

Recap of Arbor Day event;

- Ray wants to do better at extending "thank you's" to all who contributed to the event.
- Rachel discussed how to expand attendance from the community. Discussed ways to get more kids involved. More involvement from the schools.
- Joint participation from other groups – civic groups, church groups, scouts, etc.
- Mention of how smoothly the event ran this year; flag ceremony, National Anthem, awards, tree planting all went well.
- Get more people involved next year in the art contest.
- Discuss a program to get the seniors involved. Bus from Senior Center?
- Ask schools to tie-in their programs earlier in the year
- New banner or lawn signs – Ray will look into that for next year.

Memorial Day Parade; everyone is invited to walk. Giving out seeds that were left from the cancelation of the 2016 parade. Sally will drive the car. Assemble on Walsh Drive 9:15

Newsletter update;

- Rachel plans to send it out this week.
- Tara volunteers to make copies to give to the council. Abbie has the template and will provide for making copies to be ready for the 5/16 council meeting.
- Lou asks about electronic copies emailed to the council people.

Social Media;

Abbie notes that DSTC has 149 Instagram followers. Talks about the process to garner more followers and more exposure on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and other outlets.

Training and Seminars;

4 members attended the Ridgewood Seminar (CEU credits). Well attended.

Ray talked about doing joint activities with other Shade Tree Commissions. Pompton Planes is active on social media and has been doing events and activities. May be a good partner.

Arboretum;

Tara is the MAY inspector. She will complete her inspection before the end of the month.

Bill and Tom finished the bench. Concrete will be installed by DPW soon. All were thrilled with the quality of the bench and how it is a great addition to the Arboretum.

Suggestion for brown mulch instead of black.

Abbie set up an invitation / event for Prom pictures at the Arboretum.

13 bricks ready for installation at the Arboretum. Agreement to install them on 5/27 at 9am (Ray, Tom, Tara, Abbie).

Discussion about bench sponsorships and other fundraising. Ray thought \$3000 may be a good level for the 4 benches for sponsors. Funds raised will be designated for the FOTST account for tree education, promotion, and planting.

Events;

Ray presented the Twilight at the Gazebo concert series to bring more attention to the Arboretum. Ray spoke to Beth Synnott about gathering talented performers to participate. Details to be worked out over the coming month.

FOTST Garden Committee is having a meeting at Lipardi's nursery in Closter 6/2/17 at 7pm. All are welcome. Bill will notify all on the FOTST mailing list.

Tree Nursery;

A dawn redwood was planted in McGaw Park to designate the border of the new tree nursery (Abbie, Bill, Ray planted it the week before).

Funding for the nursery coming in part from insurance claim for damaged tree in auto accident on Madison Ave.

Ray suggested a "pot in pot" design which will facilitate harvesting and transplanting.

Taking suggestions for decorative elements, fencing, etc.

Discussion of a water source. Perhaps a water tank can be installed? Rainwater collection?

Sally suggested a lottery to award special trees to residents.

Sally suggested a raffle as an extra fundraiser. She will look onto requirements.

Tree maintenance;

Tom talked about finding residents wanting to preserve their trees rather than remove them.

Difficulty contacting Harding Drive to close out their tree claim.

Inspection of 525 Washington Ave revealed it to be a homeowner tree. They were notified that a permit is required for removal by them.

Stump grinding will take place soon.

Tree Permits;

About 8 permits so far this spring. Ray was able to change the mind of 3 homeowners who will not remove their trees.

Discussion of how Ridgewood adds tree planting to all street renovations and paving. Lou will bring this suggestion to the Council.

Adopt-a-tree;

15 trees to be planted this spring.

Mike asked about watering the trees on public lands. Do we have a water truck? Can DPW take that responsibility? No clear decision.

Memorial trees- sponsorship for trees planted on public lands?

Craig Grothues submitted the winning bid and will be planting the trees in the coming few weeks.

Motion to close the meeting by Abbie. Seconded by Mike. 8:50pm