

**Minutes**  
**City of Geneva Shade Tree Committee**  
**Thursday August 17th, 2023 Noon**  
**Finger Lakes Welcome Center Conference Room**

**Present:** Joe Venuti, James Norwalk, Jeremy Busch, Jay Freer, Charlie Rouse, Daisy Hoyt

**Absent:** Mark Perry, Ken Camera, James McCorkle, Jim Engel

**Approval:** Minutes for the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting approved unanimously with one minor edit

**Old Business:**

- Hosting [www.genevatrees.com](http://www.genevatrees.com) on the city website

No update. The site is currently being hosted by database builder George Farnsworth and has been reimbursed by the city through 2023.

- Membership updates:

We still have 2 open seats on the committee. Daisy Hoyt has applied, and Joe Venuti will follow up with her application.

- Identifying locations for planting of WWTP trees and response to outreach.

Mark Perry has created a spreadsheet of over 100 requests received to date. Many are for small site and several of the requests have been denied because the property does not have an actual tree space at the right-of-way.

Requests generated by DPW:

16 – small trees  
14 – medium trees  
11 – large trees  
2 – upright trees  
1 – red bud  
1 – cherry or Amelanchier

Trees available at WWTP nursery:

Large: 33 trees

4 Sycamore	1 1/4" to 1 1/2"	12 to 14 ft
4 Tulip tree	1 1/4" to 1 1/2"	12 to 14 ft
5 Tulip tree	1" to 1 1/4"	10 to 12 ft
1 Bur oak	1 1/4" to 1 1/2"	12 to 14 ft
7 Swamp white oak	3/4" to 1"	8 to 10 ft
1 Chinkapin Oak	1 1/2 to 1 3/4"	14 to 16 ft
10 Basswood	1" to 1 1/4"	10 to 12 ft

Small to Medium: 25 trees

5 American hornbeam	1 1/4" to 1 1/2"	10 to 12 ft
14 Hop hornbeam	3/4" to 1"	8 to 10 ft
6 Redbud		8 to 10 ft

Park or Cemetery:

1 Tulip tree	1 1/4" to 1 1/2"	12 to 14 ft
5 Catalpa	1 1/4" to 1 1/2"	10 to 12 ft

- Finger Lakes Times article ideas

Jim Norwalk is working on 2 articles for the Finger Lakes Times: one on the nursery work; one on problem street trees of Geneva.

- Shade Tree information on the city web site

Joe Venuti has been linking our agendas and meeting minutes to a space in ECODE360 but will make sure they get moved to the new city website dedicated to the business of boards and commissions.

Jeremy Busch agreed to write a report about what information is missing and how it should be improved.

- Crab apple update from Jay Freer:

I may be out of town next Thursday. After many unexpected struggles with problems, I seem to finally have the grafted ornamental crabapple project for the City underway. To reiterate what we have discussed previously, we are aiming to have about 60 semi-dwarf trees grafted this month, which should be dug in October 2024, & go into the City nursery for at least a year before growing large enough to be planted out. So far as I know at present, the nurseryman (Wafler) does not want a progress payment from the City before we take delivery. We are using the stocks G935 or G890. I hope that the City nursery will be relatively free of deer attack or we may have to provide deer guards for the young trees.

Jay need access to the database to locate trees with good budwood. Jim Norwalk will help him.

The grafts can be made this year to be received by the city in Fall 2024 for placement in the WWTP nursery.

### **New Business:**

- Follow up with Arbor Day tree recipients. Who wants to contact them and get information?

Charlie Rouse will contact these people and Jim Norwalk will forward him the 2023 list.

Charlie is worried that the oak he received at the Arbor Day giveaway has Oak Wilt. He should notify Schott Nursery.

- Work at the WWTP nursery.

Our second year in a row we have lost all 10 Flowering Dogwoods that we planted. Jay Freer wondered whether they were killed by dogwood borers.

- Jim Norwalk will be away October through December. Who can substitute as chair during that period?

Nobody has volunteered to replace him.

- Problem tree alert

99 St. Clair St., tree #7694 Norway Maple, 26" dia. REMOVE

141 North Exchange St., tree #9523 Callery Pear, REMOVE looks like ash species

154 Maxwell Ave, Sugar Maple, LOOKS HEALTHY, perhaps a prune.

43 Oak St. Dead ash, REMOVE

39 North Main St., tree #2254 Green Ash, KEEP. Still in good condition. Joe Venuti will negotiate with the homeowner to apply EAB injection treatments.

40 Elmwood, 10 Delancey, have dead hawthorns which were donated by NYSEG and transplanted as bare root saplings. REMOVE

23 Norwood Ave. new 'Winter King' hawthorn has a few leaves emerging as of 8/17/23. PLEASE WATER AND MONITOR.

115 N. Main. 'Snow Goose' cherry is dead. REMOVE

64 West St. Serviceberry has emergent leaves. PLEASE WATER AND MONITOR.

- MRB grant application for funding our next tree inventory.

No update. Grant application has been submitted.

- 'Greencolumn' Maples at Genesee Park

These have been replaced by 'Armstrong' maple, a columnar variety of *A. rubrum*.

- Topped trees on 424 and 418 Exchange St.

The DPW will write a letter to the store owner (Baroody's) explaining the code violation issue and that tree care needs to be left to the DPW or other licensed tree care specialists permitted by the city.

- Storm Damage Funding and Ontario County Contacts

A flier has been added to the minutes to explain government recovery aid available to county residents and businesses damaged by the flood of July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Other water damage from other flood events needs to be submitted to the city clerk via a "notice of claim" process.

- Ash tree treatment update.

Ongoing prophylactic chemical pesticide treatment to protect against EAB has been administered to 21 ash trees (14 street trees and 7 park trees) since the beginning of the invasion. All but 4 have survived. DPW recommends ongoing treatment of the remaining trees on a schedule of every 2 to 3 years at a cost of about \$100 to \$200 per tree.

- Request to focus on Washington St. Cemetery

A request by city resident Brian Olson has been submitted to DPW to focus more attention on the tree care in Washington Street Cemetery. Joe Venuti says the department's strategy there has been more "reactive management" in nature than plan-based. He knows of a dead ash tree that will cost about \$2,000 to remove. Charlie Rouse advises that large standing trees with cavities be allowed to remain because of a known population of Northern Flying Squirrels (*Glaucomys sabrinus*) that lives there.

- Joe Venuti announced that homeowners on Avenue B whose back yards border the old railroad grade have petitioned the DPW to removed the many large overhanging trees growing along the embankment that are overhanging their property. He estimates a large cost to the effort and predicts a significant impact on upcoming tree budgets.
- Joe Venuti announced the updates on the Genessee Park soil remediation work. The sod is laid, watered, and mowed. Trees, electricity, and concrete is complete. The park was reopened on 8/7/23. Additional hardscaping work is scheduled.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday Sept 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 NOON at the Geneva Visitor's Center Conference Room.