

Geneva Green Committee Meeting Minutes August 23, 2021

Present (via zoom or in person): Richard Cox (co-chair), Anne Hoyt (co-chair), Jan Regan (city council liaison), Michael Androtti (HWS Sustainability Director), Sara Britting, Jim Norwalk, Larry Campbell, Pat Wallace, Lisa DeFrancesca, Robert Putney (Impact Earth)

Update on Community Choice Aggregate: Richard reported that because of a glitch in the wording of the resolution passed by city council in June to approve the city's joining a CCA program, the matter may need to be voted upon again by city council. If that is the case, with the loss of Councilor John Pruett who has resigned council, there would not be a majority to pass this time around. Four city council members (Bill Peeler, Major Steve Valentino, Anthony Noone, and Frank Gaglianese) voted against the measure in June. It would allow the city to purchase electricity in bulk for all its citizens at a reduced rate and from sustainable sources. Jan explained that councilors did not like the fact that all residents would be automatically enrolled in the program although there are several options for opting out including putting a prepaid postcard in the mail. Sara suggested including a survey in the next water/sewer bill asking residents if they would support joining a CCA. In addition, she said councilors may respond to private conversation.

Update on Waste Assessment: Robert said the work of sorting through loads of garbage is complete and that a preliminary report with data will be available by August 31. He also suggested that the city look at revised legislation making its way through Congress to update the solid waste act as municipalities are adopting similar legislation in their own communities. Sara said once the report is complete, then the local work begins of educating residents of the benefits of composting. Lisa asked if any communities in NYS have mandatory composting. No one knew.

Update on the Lakefront Park: Anne reported that an Open House at the park is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 18, to identify specific beds that could be adopted and to raise money for purchasing plants. Anne said Geneva Community Projects is working on a Memorandum of Understanding to be the recipient of any funds raised. Jim has also agreed to do tours of the lakefront habitats and plants. Lisa volunteered to assist. The event would be publicized through letters to service groups, churches, and other organizations, through a newspaper column, through radio publicity. Jan said the city has started discussing with the new management at 41 Lake Front (the former Ramada) to take responsibility for maintaining those beds.

Native Species Plant Sale: Richard announced that another event will be held in early or mid-October.

Update on Proposed Marina: Jan said the project is nearly ready to go out to bid. Larry and others expressed concerns about the project's impact on the lake itself and on the park. Jan asked us to look into information that we can bring to city council.

New Business: Richard suggested we promote another Energy Fair similar to one held a few years ago that the Community Center.