

## 2023 Sept 19 City of Geneva Green Committee meeting, Finger Lakes Welcome Center, 5:30pm

Attended by Richard Cox (Co-Chair), Anne Hoyt (Co-Chair), Jan Regan (City Council liaison), Pat Wallace, Tony Shelton, Jason Rearick, Larry Campbell

The Town of Geneva passed the Neighbor Notification resolution, urging Ontario County to adopt a 2001 NYS law requiring lawn care companies to notify neighbors in writing of a sprayed pesticide application on their neighbors' property at least 48 hours in advance of the application, and homeowners who do their own application to post a sign in advance. The purpose of the law is to allow neighbors to take practical actions such as keeping children and pets indoors at the time of application, closing windows, turning off air conditioning, and covering or stowing toys and lawn furniture. TS (Entomologist, and Seneca Lakes Pure Waters member) dissented, saying that in addition to managing pests culturally, he sometimes employs a certified lawn care company to apply chemicals at specific times e.g., based on his observance of weed emergence, and sometimes there's a window of <48hrs in which the application would be most effective. He observes a 24hr re-entry period but wonders how the law would be enforced, by whom, and with what penalties. AH: some contractors come on pre-set schedules and spray anyway. What if the neighbors were holding a children's party, wedding, etc.? LC et al.: what about wind speed and wind direction? How far off the ground is the spray released? TS: close to the ground. PW: what's the rationale for the 48hr advanced notice as opposed to 24hr advanced notice? Jason: what constitutes "written" notification? All agreed that Right-to-Know signs should remain posted afterwards. RC: we should ask other communities which have passed and are following this law what their experiences with it have been.

Doran Ave/Closed Loop: Amie and Director Venuti met with John Hicks, Sr. regarding the vermiculture trench operator agreement. The current agreement expired 9/19/23 and will be extended for 30 days prior to a one-year continuation. RC: they need working equipment at all times. Their vehicle was broken for a long time, leaving the facility in bad shape, both collection bins were overflowing, and the trenches were neglected. LC: I went often, and it seemed okay. Jason: who oversees compliance? AH: would John P look for grant money? RC: we need to encourage composting because it's the right thing to do. We could invite a meeting with the school Principals to ask what their current composting protocols are. I'll share Jenna Fuchs' school composting video.

AH reported that the City allocated ~\$1700 to BID for purchasing plants for the lakefront park, specifically the beds that front the hotel. HWS Day of Service is Saturday, Oct 14, 11:30-2:30, which will supply us with a lot of manpower to tear out rose bush roots to prep plots in front of the hotel for subsequent installation of the new plants. Jill Byington has already pruned the rose bushes to stumps, as they attracted Japanese beetles and were not in the Park Plan. We need to stress to the hotel to stop planting random stuff. Please bring wheelbarrows, leather gloves, etc. The installation of the new plants will be a big job – we'll need lots of help. RC: if the planting is scheduled for Sunday Oct 29<sup>th</sup>, I'll ask the Presbyterians to help.

Native Plant Sale Saturday, Sept 30 from 8 am to 1 pm at the Welcome Center, need help to set up.

Eco-Book Club: Suzie (at the Public Library) says that it's too late now to get something into the Oct newsletter. Should we start in Nov or wait until Jan? Maybe we could start with videos in Nov and the book in Jan? Probably Greta Thunberg's *The Climate Book*. PW has compiled a list of environmental films of various lengths and created a google doc with a couple of suggestions of short videos to go along with the first couple of that book's sections; more to follow.

The following agenda items were not addressed due to the late hour:

An email correspondence by Jim Norwalk asked us to address the problem of maintaining the Routes 5&20 median plantings which he reported had all been weed-whacked to the ground, and that earlier weeding efforts had removed a large percentage of the plants meant to be there.

Pat Keefe asked by email if changing the day and time of the meetings might get additional attendees.

(Mission Zero)

(Hummingbird Pathway/Trail)