

City of Geneva Green Committee meeting, Tuesday, 17 January 2023, Welcome Center

Present: Richard Cox (Co-Chair), Anne Hoyt (Co-Chair), Jan Ragan (City Council liaison), Lily Silver (Geneva High School Green Club), Patrick Keefe, Marcia Cullen, Jacob Fox, Alejandra Molina, Sara Britting, Larry Campbell, Pat Wallace; John Hicks (Special Guest)

1: John Hick, President of Organix Green Industries, LLC (since 2004), and Closed Loop, now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year, which he operated with his son in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, and with the 20 hrs/week employ of his grandson, Zachary Hicks, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Organix, in Seneca Castle, supports Closed Loop (in Geneva) but hasn't done anything with Closed Loop and hasn't seen any break down in pricing. The [Ontario County] Sustainability Office gives them more ideas/programs. JR stated the City Council's position on licensing, composting hopes, granted to Closed Loop. JH didn't know anything about that agreement, said that the concrete pad is ready for use and wants funding to start. JR: yes, should operate as a business and sell compost products. JH can talk to haulers but never saw Council's complete package. RC: a business should have three-years' worth of expenses in the bank before starting. JH asked to work on contract but wasn't invited to, spent \$38k 1<sup>st</sup> year, then the contract was changed from the original term of 3 years to 1 year; didn't come close to breaking even but hoped to 2<sup>nd</sup> year; works for Impact Earth; will submit bid for different contract, is encouraged by users' feedback. AH: organics are ~50% of our waste stream. JH: NYS doesn't follow through with enforcement [referring to the NYS law that large producers or organic wastes must send theirs to a composting facility if one exists within 25 miles], including 2 largest landfills [Ontario County and Seneca Meadows]. SB: there are grants for composting, need public education and enforcement. JH: also works with paid staff in the Rochester area: Monroe County and (Henrietta or Perinton); has confidence in Carla Jordon, on top of lots of grants. AH: the County doesn't communicate where we stand on these things. JH: if you get Carla to come you could get answers; talk to Mark Venuti, compliments him; Carla supports education in schools, etc. AH: we need real access. SB: major cities have comprehensive plans, this area is too fragmented, Ontario County should do more. JR: school field trips should happen. JH: there should've been 4 trenches as opposed to 2; need to expand contracts, should run 4 days/week for longer stretches as opposed to 6 days/week at 2 hrs/day to make employee drive-time worthwhile; need pumps, tractors, generator, trucks; Nardoizzi hauls without charging me; one other person and I (JH) voted against the Ontario County Land Fill but 19 voted for it.

2: Jan's report about Mark's grand (grant?) for a joint facilitator, etc. (???), skipped.

3: Anne's report, skipped.

4: Lily reported on GHS Green Club: enjoyed helping in MZ and want to participate in MZ2; got FLI funding for a new Little Free Library location for children's sustainability books at elementary school; Day of Service with Katie Flowers; FLX Youth Climate Summit; HS doesn't recycle or compost, want recycling first. AH knows a guy who can talk to the School Board.

5: JR: JF accepted a position with the Town and Jackie Augustine's shared City-Town \_?\_ (project) but need a contract; 20 hr/week; already working for Town, start with assessment which Impact Earth was supposed to do but didn't; 2-yr position, grant-funded. JF: informally, now more formally with Erica \_?\_; clean energy grants, City already qualifies, just needs paperwork; upgrades, heat pumps, EV chargers, CLCPA climate bill, consulting firm, transitions, funding mechanisms. RC: Dave Linger is restoring the schoolhouse on Monroe near the Washington Cemetery, Jewel is moving out. JF: Brett Peters <brett@climategfl.org>, liaison, recommends decreased funding (of \_?\_). AM: how do we do outreach? How do people hear about this? JF: Climate Accelerator campaign, brainstorm with Town, direct mail campaign. AH: spread word via churches. JR: City Council will put on email blasts, set up meetings to lend legitimacy, spread word. JF: landlords are a huge discussion piece. AM: laundromats, churches, library; Geneva could be model. JF: the right person could be

the model for community tough point. AH: Lily could help spread the word at the HS. JF: Brett rebranded HeatSmart Monroe to HeatSmart FLX; Mission Zero 2 feedback from Town: high input of time, effort for little return, low attendance (~400 people), so go where. The people are, e.g., Big aLice, Crusin' Night, etc. AH: our mission is to advise City Council on policy. JF: need more policy focus. JR: family event; struggle to get it done, I'm too busy to help, maybe scale down to one focus; got use of the ice rink for free, could collaborate with tree give-away, Free Stuff / Fix-It event (not this yr). RC: rink doesn't have [separated] spaces to do different things. AH: need to send letter to last year's vendors to see if they would be willing to return and pay vendor fee. RC: should be a phone call and ask for higher fee this year to cover the \$3500 that Chris Lavin at the Geneva Community Center has to charge because they aren't funded by the City, repeat MZ for 3 yrs before giving up; who else can call? (RC, MC, PK) Give them a week to provide their answer. JF: \$22k insurance to run facility should be paid by City; Town works with Cornell University's Design Connect to site and design new facility, ReUse model or scrap for money; 2 trenches are okay, don't need 4, but a tumbler would be good; there will be a survey; Closed Loop is paying rent to City until Sept 2023 at a loss; negotiated with Cosentino, then Joe Venuti; financial model works at Town, should work for City; Closed Loop should run a profit, is willing to advise City on how to run it; is communicating with Ami Hendrix; City Council has forgotten about Closed Loop, should expand to Construction and Demolition debris. RC: how's Growing Cycle doing? Answer from several: doing well and provides jobs but not operating to its potential. JF: work at Town Sustainability, wide range of projects, e.g., road salt, etc.