

2023 May 9 City of Geneva Green Committee Monthly Meeting Minutes, 5:30-7:30pm Welcome Center

Present: Richard Cox, Co-Chair: Anne Hoyt, Co-Chair & FLCC rep; Alejandra Molina; Jim Norwalk; Lily Silver, Alex Salter, & Rendell, GHS Green Club; Larry Campbell; Jill Byington; Jennifer Grant, Town of Geneva Sustainability; Pat Keefe; Sara Briting; Marcia Cullen; Pat Wallace.

1, Mission Zero de-brief: while there are many opportunities for improvement, the overwhelming feedback was positive regarding venue and arrangement of EV's, tables, Solar Village tours, and children's activities. All liked collaborating with the Shade Tree Committee and their tree sapling give-away and want to repeat that, as well as a more general plant give-away/swap (possibly natives, possibly any plant). Some people got compost with their tree, although multiple MZ organizers/tablers were unaware of this. Tree saplings were paid for by Tom Burall's firewood sale money, and Jim Norwalk and John Engle drove a truck to MD to pickup 100 saplings in 4 varieties; only 8 white oaks remained un-claimed. STC is growing 300 seedlings at the wastewater treatment plant to be planted in the City Right-of-Ways. Other suggestions for next year: demos for straw bale house, geothermal/solar open house tours/revolving slide show, rain barrel workshop, children's poster-making & seed-planting in center, using the locker rooms for films etc, support weatherization initiatives/Green Buildings, Procession of the Species, addressing Climate Change via Geneva Reads programs/Library Book Club, Fix-It Clinic if scheduling allows (wasn't done this year because Fix-It & Free Stuff Day will be 6/4/23. Attendance was 398, virtually the same as last year. Eileen Buckley collected 242lbs of VHS tapes and CD's (a bit lower than last year's 315lbs). Most people support holding MZ again next year and having it closer to Arbor Day so as not to conflict with other Earth Day events.

2, Plant Sale will be 5/20/23 by the gazebo if a nice day, inside the Welcome Center if inclement weather. Invited sellers are Jim Norwalk's Butterfly Effect, Amanda's Garden, Habitat Gardening of Central NY (a local chapter of Wild Ones <https://www.hgcny.org/#:~:text=Habitat%20Gardening%20in%20Central%20New,establishment%20of%20native%20plant%20communities>), and Jim Engles. Lily and GHS students will assist.

3, Synthetic Pesticides are still being used on City property, e.g. at the bench and garden near the boat launch, where synthetic pesticides could be smelled despite there being no right-to-know signs. Jan had reported that City Council's earlier agreement to ban the use of synthetic pesticides on City property unless a good-faith effort to exhaust all other methods is in jeopardy. City wishes to skip the alternative methods and employ pre-emergent chemicals, but these need to be applied at the right time and only work on germinating seedlings, not weeds which already have roots. The City is still short on workers, and has many responsibilities, so has turned responsibility for the lakefront over to BID. Perhaps Ontario County can take this on. BID is not-for-profit, so can accept donations (as opposed to Green Committee, an arm of City Council, which cannot directly accept donations. Talk to Joe Venuti, BID's new Director and Executive Assistant to seek agreement on responsibilities and action plan. Solicit letters of support from City/Town/IPM/Canandaigua to Ontario County Board of Supervisors in support of Ontario County joining the NYS DEC for spray requirements. There should be official City records specifying when and where synthetic pesticides have been applied, but requests have been fruitless.

4, No Mow May is gaining popularity, but is controversial. Not mowing in May puts grass at a competitive disadvantage to weeds, and pollinator insects may store food there, later to be mowed. More discussion needed.

5, The HeatSmart workshop last week was well-attended, with a powerpoint presentation including ground-based and air-based heat pumps for heating and cooling buildings, available subsidies and tax credits,

tenants/landlords, Inflation Reduction Act, could also present a workshop in Spanish (perhaps at a church after worship service).

6, BID helped Weeding Wednesdays by creating a QR code and SignUp Genius intake form.

7, Will BID's June 2nd fundraiser, Cruising Night, have recycling and bottle returns separated from trash? Todd Taylor has done this by hand after the fact in the past. This year BID said yes to the idea of separation, but we believe that people will have to be posted at each receptacle location to monitor into which bin people put each item. Ontario County Landfill proceeds could/should be used for bins and personnel.

8, The Geneva Resource Recovery Park contract will soon be up for renewal. The current operators haven't fulfilled promised outcomes, so we suggest putting the contract up for bid.

9, NYSEG sent customers postcards advertising possible eligibility for a one-time \$100 gift card for joining their sponsored solar farm. How will this affect Geneva's interest in joining a CCA?

10, Sara found out who to talk to about the un-recyclable plastic "clam shells" in which produce, etc. is packaged for sale.