

Minutes
City of Geneva Shade Tree Committee
Thursday May 18th, 2023 Noon
Finger Lakes Welcome Center Conference Room

Present: Mark Perry, James Norwalk, Jeremy Busch, Jim Engel, Jay Freer, Charlie Rouse

Absent: Joe Venuti, Ken Camera, James McCorkle

Guests: Daisy Hoyt

Approval: Minutes for the March 20th meeting approved unanimously with minor edits

Old Business:

- From DPW Director Joe Venuti via email:

“Mark is doing a great job with organizing fall plantings lists and will update. DPW should be checking on all planted trees last fall to make sure water bags and staking is secure and or removed as needed.

Genesee Park trees will be planted as part of the foundry remediations and that work is scheduled within the next two months. They were able to source two 3-3.5” Princeton Elms so they will look very nice transplanted.

DRI trees are being reviewed for all lost materials and will be replaced as needed per the contract.”

- Hosting 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 3 open seats on the committee. Daisy Hoyt will apply. Jill Byington has verbally agreed to join. Jim Norwalk will follow up to make sure applications are filled out. Jeremy Busch said we should print out committee applications to pass out to interested people at the Arbor Day event.

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

Mark Perry reported that 5 bareroot tree donated by NYSEG for below-utility locations are now planted. **Location details...**At this time he has over 100 requests for trees. He needs a report of available trees from the WWTP nursery by the end of June. Jim Engel will compile this information. Jim Engel will also order tree ID labels for the nursery.

- 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

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

New Business:

- Jay Freer announced that a Kentucky Coffeetree on the N. Main Street median has been fatally damaged by a car collision and will need to be removed.
- Charlie Rouse thinks the city needs to attend to the ornamental trees at the N. Exchange St railroad overpass which are in poor condition.
- Discuss Arbor Day event, follow up with tree recipients.

The overall assessment of the 2023 Arbor Day event is positive. We felt moving the date a week earlier to unite with the Earth Day event was worthwhile and should continue. We only had 10 White Oaks left over. Additional ideas: can we offer more than 100 trees? Some felt we should get an even larger proportion of small, ornamental trees for the giveaway. Nannyberry was surprisingly popular. Some felt people were hesitant to take large trees because of limited yard space. Jim Engel will recommend more similar selections next year. Jeremy Busch suggests we have multiple people doing request intake. Having one person entering personal data was slow and caused an early backup of more than a dozen people. Mark Perry suggested we use prefilled request forms to make the process quicker. We should have better visual info like large tree images and poster-sized photos. We need to have a banner made. Should we also do a Fall giveaway?

- Cornell Agritech IPM event invitation

Amara Dunn sent an invitation to the committee inviting us to an event hosted by the Cornell Agritech Department of Integrated Pest Management on June 15th, 2023. She asked if we would like to set up an outreach table. Jim Engel will be there as an attendant on behalf of his business. No one else from the committee offered to do it this time since we don't really have the material to present at a tabling event at this time

- Work at the tree nursery

Jim Engel proposed we use our June meeting time to gather at the nursery to do an hour of work there as a crew. We will need to weed, prune, stake, label, and ID trees ready for Fall harvest. We agreed to meet at 9AM on Thursday June 8th.

Next Meeting: Thursday June 8th, 2023 9AM, Doran Ave WWTP Nursery