

2023 Nov 21 City of Geneva, NY Green Committee Meeting, Welcome Center, 5:30pm
Attended by Richard Cox & Anne Hoyt, Co-Chairs; Julia Hoyle, Jan Regan (Council Liaison), Larry Campbell,
Jacob Fox, Marcia Cullen, Pat Wallace, Pat Keefe

Agenda:

- 1) Find a volunteer to take notes when Pat cannot attend.
- 2) High School Green Club report.
- 3) The City's response to stormwater issues/report for attendees of the city meeting about the storm water meeting.
- 4) Jacob's proposed solution for stormwater
- 5) Status of Doran Ave facility. What is planned? Is there any? Who and What?
- 6) Report on Book/Film reading action group's first event.
- 7) Sara's suggestion to start a petition about the clamshell issue.

3 & 4) Geneva stormwater and sewer research knowledge, Green Committee should advise residents on stormwater diversion, suggest City code changes to Council. City of Geneva (CoG) held flooding meeting at Pumphouse 11/14/23. A 100sqft area of impermeable surface (roof, pavement, etc.) yields 64 gals during a 1" rain event. We should advocate for rainwater catchment systems, e.g. home rain barrels, rain gardens, increase the allowance of garden per lawn ratio; seek grants for rain barrels. Leaves shouldn't be in streets where they clog the storm grates and storm sewers increasing flooding, should mulch them into lawns, leave them on gardens and natural corners of properties, added to compost bins, seek grant for making compost bins. Increasing organic content of soil increases its capacity to retain water (and adds nutrients, benefiting plants whose roots hold soil from erosion). Green Committee could sponsor info sessions regarding rain garden design, construction, native plant selection. A rain garden acts as a temporary storm water storage swale, like a vernal pond, slowing the course of rainwater along its path downhill, allowing it to soak into the ground more and run off less; using berms, redirecting/diverting rain from downspouts and acting as a temporary receptacle. There are stormwater diversion solutions of low, medium, and higher costs. CoG is doing a catchment at Carter Rd / Gambee Rd intersection. There's something between the high school soccer fields and bus garages on Gambee. Keuka Marsh Creek... Ian Smith... \$1M 9E Plan for Phosphorus:

https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/senecakeuka9e.pdf

There are agricultural grants, Brook St tennis court wall erosion reported to CoG, stabilized. Undeveloped portion of McDonough Park w old infrastructure city-owned, so could work (for catchment area). Flood open park land, not creeks, storm sewers, roads, basements. Reed St radio-owned property? Some locations are identified in the City Comprehensive Plan. Should work collaboratively w Town of Geneva (ToG), especially along their common border, as well as with Waterloo on the east edge. Old, non-functioning storm sewers, fragile, failing infrastructure, Cemetery Creek runs underground through CoG (behind The Smith Opera House).

https://ontariocountyny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/15747/City-of-Geneva-Action-Sheets---12_17_18

Existing storm sewers built ~1882 during the era of diphtheria snake in curved paths ~15' underneath people's homes undisclosed to owners. If properties are sold w/o the CoG disclosing their locations and the foundations subsequently collapse, who's liable? Many grants are required to be shovel-ready w expertise at hand and matching funds. The burned-put grocery store at the corner of Oak St and Castle St (former Midias Big M)

could be donated to the CoG and the location could be used for something. Inflation Reduction Act funds available. City Planner David West might be able to help. We should have a CoG grant writer. We should help support grant writing, reports, info. JH works w Finger Lakes Regional Development Council, so would therefore recuse herself to avoid any potential conflict of interest. We'll advocate w incoming January City Council. Geo-tag neighborhoods which keep flooding, create map. Host public info sessions in the spring, e.g. table at Mission Zero (April 27, along w rain barrels, compost bins), invite downspout salespeople to talk about getting water away from house foundations. Rainwater runoff carries weedkillers and (excess) fertilizers downhill (toward and into Seneca Lake), therefore people's money is wasted if applied incorrectly, and causes problems in Seneca Lake (eutrophication, dead zones, harmful blooms of cyanobacteria). How do storm sewers work? While designed to let water flow down, do they allow things to come up? (Un)sanitary waste, mold spores, flies, etc? if they have a functioning trap, flies shouldn't come up, but rats might.

If people intentionally put leaves into the street, people can call the police or file a complaint

<https://cityofgenevany.com/441/Complaint-Form>

Or call the DPW to ask them to come pick up your pile at the curb, or suggest that the DPW make known a schedule of when they'll be to given locations so people can plan ahead. There are some free yard debris bags at City Hall.

5) The status of the Doran Ave facility is unknown. The one-year contract failed. Nardozzis asked to be paid \$65k/yr to operate what used to be a commercial operation which rented the land from the CoG. Co-mingling leaves, branches, pumpkins, some plastic bag contamination. It would pay for itself if people could drop off yard debris, trash, recycling, scrap metal, C&D, collect punch cards like ToG facility on White Springs Rd but ToG doesn't have capacity to expand to include CoG. E-waste picked up 1x/wk. Joe (Venuti) reluctant to do the same on Doran Ave due to its proximity to the wastewater treatment plant (despite it having a trash heap of its own). Doran Ave would be a small facility but small is bigger and better than none. Doran Ave hrs of operation have been inconsistent, fluctuating, changing, confusing, website says it has hours of operation but that it's temporarily closed. Small receptacles for kitchen scraps, large receptacles for yard debris. CoG mulches branches and uses them around City. The concrete composting trenches aren't being used or maintained.

6) RC and PW hosted 7 additional participants to the screening of An Inconvenient Truth at the Geneva Public Library 11/14/23, and will show An Inconvenient Sequel; Truth to Power Tuesday, Dec 5th (6:00-8:00pm).

7) Plastic Clamshells at Wegmans: Sara was going to spearhead but became busy with other things, suggests a petition. If we ask (Corporate) to discontinue plastic, we should have a substitution suggestion ready. They have demonstrated willingness to work with local farmers to source produce and had communicated intentions to switch at least some bakery items to cardboard boxes, so there's hope.