

Geneva Green Committee meeting Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 5:30pm  
Welcome Center conference room

Zoom: [https://hws.zoom.us/j/92156663764?pwd=UJJ7ExYP7DwblO0Ps2Et1zmjlqPfb.1#  
success](https://hws.zoom.us/j/92156663764?pwd=UJJ7ExYP7DwblO0Ps2Et1zmjlqPfb.1#success)

Present: Pat Wallace (Co-Chair), Richard Cox, Julia Hoyle, Jan Regan, Sara Britting  
Joining via Zoom: Anne Hoyt  
Special Guests Catherine Price of BID; Chris Glattly and Thomas Lyon of the  
Canandaigua ClimateSmart Communities Task Force

1, Welcome. Request motion to approve Feb's meeting Minutes. Motion: RC, 2<sup>nd</sup>: JH

2, Brief Introductions

3, Correspondences & Reports

A. PW: MZ4: 23 vendors officially registered to date, plus several unofficially. JR: Add ReUse

B. PW: Director of Planning & Economic Development David West is working w Jacob Fox & Comptroller Adam Blowers on Geneva's ClimateSmart Communities. Suggested areas for us to help with:

1. Do an energy audit / GHG inventory for government buildings  
- it will help understand where we have vulnerabilities / we need baselines for lots of the improvements
2. Continue source water protection work and enter that in CSC
3. Government operations climate action plan - it's worth it for accountability
4. update vehicle fleet inventory annually
5. Unified solar permit
6. NY stretch energy code

4, New business:

A. 5:35-6:00, Catherine Price, BID Director <https://www.genevadowntown.com/> Budget, City take-back, mowing, weeding, no pesticides. Landscape Lakefront and Downtown except demo grape vines in front of Welcome Center. Jill Byington is on board. Grants for plants and bird houses, watering, weeding Wednesdays, Geneva Grows Native (Aug) w IPM. Tried flame-killing weeds but it doesn't kill the grass, it just grows back again faster than when they weed-whack. We're cutting edge, Bloomfield, Naples, and Hudson call for Native plantings info, greenhouse sources. We'll do more small events. We had to end Cruisin' Night due to fights, shoplifting, etc. There was a social media backlash, but it was a Board decision, not an individual decision. Trying to education people with plaques, brochures to ID plants, birds, the way native plants clean groundwater, have better root systems, prevent erosion. RC: will you table with us for Mission Zero? CP: yes, Lauren will. Daisy designed Seneca St planting beds. Positive change decreases labor going forward. DRI was a great vision except 5&20 median in a 40mph zone. Not safe, no health benefits, we have no truck with flashing lights. RC: Jim Engel doing the median? CP: He worked it out w the City. Random people go weed-eating and kick up rocks into the passing cars. We couldn't touch the DRI plantings under the terms of the contract. Jill checked the landscaping plans. Jim Engle will do spot-spraying for Tree of Heaven etc. we hoped that decreased chemical use would decrease the HAB's. CG: it's a problem at the State level; mollusks accumulate the phosphorus, need more data. JH: Long warm period. RC: my snowdrops bloomed in Nov; they never did that before. AH: Is Wed the only day that JB will be at the Lakefront? CP: 2 8hr days and a 4hr day. Put down mulch for a

good weed barrier. Balance good management with good looks for tourism, so maybe more than just Wednesdays at the Lakefront.

**B. 6:00-7:00, Thomas Lyon, Canandaigua ClimateSmart Task Force**

<https://canandaiguanevnyork.gov/343/Climate-Smart-Canandaigua-Task-Force> The Canandaigua ClimateSmart Communities (CSC) Task Force started in 2016 w composting. I've been its Chair since 2019/2020. Schools and hospitals have their own composting arrangements w Impact Earth. We got certified Bronze w renewable energy plan: \$7million power solar panels for municipal buildings equaling 95% of municipal buildings' needs. GHG inventory for City and communities got points. Natural resources inventory got lots of points. Community gardens w Geneva was a lot of time and effort for 1 point, but we were doing it anyways. Comprehensive Plan, Smart Growth Principles, Tree City USA (which Geneva is too), Tree Advisory Board all got points. Aerobic digester to process compost and backyard composters distributed for free. There's organic waste pick-up but apartments are left out. AH: can you please clarify the section of your 2023 report about \$37.50/quarter pick-up fees? TL: it's built into the taxes, not charged individually. Recycling bins changed to (96-gal) toters and people can call if they need things picked up that didn't fit (or wait to put the rest in the next time). now we have 64-gal toters for garbage and the workers don't pick up any extra stuff that didn't fit. AH: when did Canandaigua change to City haulers? TL: decades ago. The workers also fill in with other projects. In 2021 or '22 a new City Council study found that it's a lower cost to have DPW do the hauling than private haulers. WWTP leachate is processed into class A biosolids. RC: How many trucks? TL: 5 or 6. Code enforcement vehicles are EV's, Police are hybrids. JR: How many days/wk does hauling take place? TL: the City is divided into 4 quadrants, and one quadrant is collected per day (so only once per wk per location), with recycling every other week alternating with yard waste. RC: WWTP removes forever chemicals? TL: not detectible at this point, with 3ppm considered safe. Most testing is in-house, with DEC also checking PFAS. Ontario County Landfill is closing, and then there's 30 yrs of monitoring after that. checked w High Acres, selling leachate helps to cover some of the tipping fees. Solar Farm gap built in to fund additional projects. Streetlights designed w gap to fund other projects. Zero-emission grants leverage facility improvements. Upgrades count for more funding. We got Silver in 2<sup>nd</sup> round, 1<sup>st</sup> saved 20%, 2<sup>nd</sup> **saved 10¢/KwHr, currently 7¢/KwHr, so less beneficial. We insist on 100% NYS renewables and use RG&E. we** experienced public push-back due to op-out feature. State Planning Directors know that most installations are upstate, most draw is downstate. Livingston County, Farmington production, Macedon, Wayne County sites got negativity for sites which displaced active farmland, but sold off by older farmers. (RC and others noted that plants and animals can be raised under solar panels.) RC: How big is Canandaigua's? TL: 3 to 4 acres. CG: What does the City of Geneva have for solar panels? RC: HWS has some on the Wallace property on Carter Rd. AH: Can Canandaigua and Geneva combine for Community Choice Aggregate? TL: I don't think so because Canandaigua is supplied by RG&E while Geneva is supplied by NYSEG. AH: People didn't like the opt-out aspect. TL: We got flack too, but if you didn't opt out of it, you've already opted into something else. AH: Four zero-emission vehicles? TL: 2 trucks and 2 cars, 2 for code enforcement, and 2 for director/ deputy director. PW: your documents mentioned moving the chargers to different locations, are they not drilled into the concrete? TL: No, just big and heavy. We can move them, but don't do that often. We'll potentially install 4 new level 3 chargers. CP: Who do you use? We use Linkwell, grant programming. TL: We use Value-stack. AH: Do you have a Government Operations Client Action Plan? TL: Not "Operations", just Climate Action Plan, GHG inventory, etc. Genesee FLX help, coordinate with Canandaigua Lake Council. CG: Would you recommend that Geneva look at...? TL: Solar panels, streetlights predate CSC, it was just the right thing to do. I'm also on the Canandaigua City Council. Need buy-in from townspeople as opposed to committee. Stretch energy code enforcement, pushback, next level, thicker insulation, etc. Builders stressed but they usually change standards every few years anyways. Have conversations w people who were against it, then

they understand better. Developers here? CP: Several empty units, Habitat for Humanity units. Geneva's zoning code passed w help from David West, then more developers. Pacer AI data analysis, 6 months in, we're getting good data. Regarding disallowing natural gas, Phase II on Lisk property, 53 units, not going anywhere. Talking to John regarding FLX Trails. BID NY Power Authority runs canals and recreation along canals, \$4 trillion businesses, meeting w them, getting accessibility (?) to go from Seneca Canal, handicapped kayak launch. RC: Bike path? CP: Want to. CG: Bridges involved. CP: Virtual museum, scannable disc produces 3D history. TL: including reenactments, Susan B. Anthony, historical photos, etc. RC: Courthouse, "The Tree." TL: Treaty Rock, one can trigger others. State grant funded. Market NY. RC: the Green Committee sponsors an Eco Fair, would Canandaigua like to participate? TL: We can help publicize. CG: We, Solar Village, are participating.

C. **NYS ClimateSmart Communities** <<https://climatesmart.ny.gov/>>, Geneva's portion:

<[https://climatesmart.ny.gov/?type=1336777441&tx\\_sjcert\\_certification\[certification\]\[\\_identity\]=19](https://climatesmart.ny.gov/?type=1336777441&tx_sjcert_certification[certification][_identity]=19)>

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that City of Geneva, NY, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate, adopts the New York State Climate Smart Communities pledge, which comprises the following ten elements:

1. **Build a climate-smart community.**
2. **Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action.**
3. **Decrease energy use.**
4. **Shift to clean, renewable energy.**
5. **Use climate-smart materials management.**
6. **Implement climate-smart land use.**
7. **Enhance community resilience to climate change.**
8. **Support a green innovation economy.**
9. **Inform and inspire the public.**
10. **Engage in an evolving process of climate action.**

## 5, Announcements

- A. Wed, 3/12/25 3:45-6:00pm Community Conversations, Finger Lakes Welcome Center Community Room w City Manager Amie Hendrix & Fire Chief Del Parrotta.
- B. Sun, 3/16/25 Geneva Parks Foundation meeting, 1:00pm, Dove Block.
- C. Mon, 3/24/25 Seeding Resilient Gardens program by Petra of Fruition Seeds & Amara Dunn-Silver of IPM, Geneva Public Library, 6:00-8:00pm, register here: <https://genevapubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/14032283>
- D. Mon, 3/24/25 Weed it & Reap, 7:00 Zoom ID 442 652 4208, Password: Garden
- E. Neighbors Together will meet at 22 Castle St, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:45-8:00pm.
- F. Mission Zero 4: Sat 4/26/25, 10am-2pm, need more volunteers.
- G. Spring Plant Sale May 17<sup>th</sup>.