

**Minutes**  
**City of Geneva Shade Tree Committee**  
**Thursday September 18th, 2025 Noon**  
**Finger Lakes Welcome Center Conference Room**

**Present:** Jeremy Busch, Jim Norwalk, James McCorkle, James Anderson, Daisy Hoyt, Jay Freer, Tom Burrall

**Excused:** Joe Venuti, John Brennan, James Engel, Charlie Rouse

**Guests:** Mike Rollo

**Approval:** Minutes for the August 21st, 2025 meeting minutes approved

**Old Business:**

- Membership updates:

The committee membership and term ending date as follows:

Charles Rouse December 31, 2025  
Jeremy Busch December 31, 2025  
James Norwalk (Chair) December 31, 2025  
Tom Burrall December 31, 2025  
James McCorkle December 31, 2026  
Daisy Hoyt December 31, 2026  
Jay Freer December 31, 2027  
James Anderson December 31, 2027  
James Engel December 31, 2027

Staff Liaison – Joe Venuti, Director of Public Works

Council Liaison – John Brennan

Members whose terms expire on December 31, 2025, Charlies Rouse, Jeremy Busch, Tom Burrall, and James Norwalk will all seek to serve another term. John Brennan will submit the reappointment recommendation to the City Council.

- Problem trees and other updates:

None reported

- Update on scheduled pruning:

Some work will be done on S. Main St. and in the adjacent cloverleaves.

- Discuss requirement for a 3-year Shade Tree Report

Jeremy Busch sent out a rough draft several months ago. He proposes that the 5 or 6 committee members complete an activity report on one year each. James McCorkle and Jay Freer volunteered. Tom Burrall will summarize the financial contribution and expense summary from the firewood sales funds.

- DEC Community Reforestation Grant 2026:

<https://dec.ny.gov/nature/forests-trees/urban-and-community-forestry/urban-and-community-forestry-grants>

Daisy Hoyt will revisit this and coordinate with James Anderson and Blueprint Geneva staff.

- Planning Fall 2025 tree planting

For immediate planting

LARGE (7)

|                          |                                       |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Tulip Poplar             | 4 trees over 12'                      |
| American Basswood        | 1 tree over 12'                       |
| Swamp White Oak          | 1 tree 10'                            |
| American Elm 'Jefferson' | 1 tree 10' (saved for 154 Maxwell St) |

For Fall 2025

SMALL (32+10)

|                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Alleghany Serviceberry | 20 trees 6-7'          |
| White Fringetree       | 2 trees 6-7'           |
| Eastern Redbud         | 10 trees 6-7'          |
| Green Hawthorn         | 10 trees (special use) |

MEDIUM (11)

|                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| American Hornbeam     | 3 trees 7-8' (need ID help) |
| American Hop-hornbeam | 8 trees 10' (need ID help)  |

LARGE (62)

|                     |                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Black Gum           | 8 trees 7-8' (1 or 2 for BID) |
| Sugar Maple         | 13 trees 10-12'               |
| Chinkapin Oak       | 18 trees 10-12'               |
| Hackberry           | 12 trees 7-8' (1 for BID)     |
| Bitternut Hickory   | 4 trees 8-10'                 |
| Kentucky Coffeetree | 3 trees 8-10'                 |
| Black Maple         | 3 trees 6-8' (need ID help)   |

HWS Buildings and Grounds manager, Drew Rojek, is excited to locate large trees on city ROWs around campus. He will check with staff about locations and submit his requests soon.

Tom Burrall wants to consult with Tim Higgins about tree planting at Glenwood Cemetery.

### **New Business:**

Joe Venuti requests that we postpone addition of saplings to the nursery in 2026 to catch up with planting of existing stock.

Jim Norwalk reminded the group that we still have approximately 150 tublings in stock at White Oak Nursery that will need to be transplanted in Spring 2026, but otherwise we can restrict purchases to trees for the Arbor Day event.

**Next Meeting:** NOON October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at the Finger Lakes Welcome Center Conference Room