

GGC Meeting, Tues, 4/21/26, Welcome Center conference room, 5:30pm

Present: Pat Wallace (Chair, Secretary), Marcia Cullen, Richard Cox, Jim Stiles, Pat Keefe, James Anderson, Julia Hoyle, Anne Hoyt

A, Call to Order

Motion to approve March Minutes: MC, 2nd:JS

B, Correspondences (none)

C, Reports/Updates/Discussions

1, With JF's approval, PW asked Sydney Schumaker to have BID sponsor a volunteer sign-up for the GRRP; SS said it was outside of their purview but that if we created a file for it, they could share it on their social media. JA created a google sheet sign-up; please share via email, social media, etc. JA will monitor the sign-up. JS: if patrons who are going there anyways could stay for a half hr or so, that would also help allow Tom to go operate the machinery in the back.

2, RC: GARDEN PROTECTION ACT (Senate Bill S879A/Assembly Bill A2122A):

<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/S879/amendment/A> and
<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/A2122/amendment/A>

Read bill text: <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/S879/> and

<https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?term=2025&bn=A02122>

See also <https://westernnewyork.wildones.org/legislative-call-to-action-for-ny-native-food-gardeners/>

The GGC is leaning towards supporting this. RC is drafting a letter/action item for it.

3, RC attended the SLG 3/25/26 Albany rally. Exciting, ppl screaming, deafening at times, expected 500, estimated $\geq 1k$, many signs, SLG bus.

4, Faith-based climate change film, e.g., <https://vimeo.com/879865715> RC will talk to Scott McKinny.

5, Schyler County Nuclear power plant proposed: the SLG meeting was 4/9/26. Here's the recording: <https://senecalakeguardian.org/nuclear-in-flx-forum/>

6, AH/JS: there was a cleanup at Loomis woods April 18 with the HWS Day of Service students. JS: successful, all trails delineated, wood chips will be delivered, especially to muddy low spots.

7, RC: MZ. Spoke to Amie H and wants to enlarge event for next yr, Taylor will assist, positive "What if we get it right?" attitude, how to produce energy/food, do things leading up to the event, include film series, Chris Woodworth has a play, Steve Dupree has something. Hope to nail down a theme and major ideas, send out invitations in June, work w HWS, suggest challenges to students regarding how to solve/accomplish such and such, decide if we'll offer a cash prize. JS: are partnering organizations playing a role? RC: BID will help w ideas but they don't have time or money to offer. JH: LDC application process -- we can apply for grant money from for community projects, talk to Marty Davis and Craig Talmage. PW: Same venue? RC: if possible but is being renovated. MC: need to lock in the date. RC: April 24, 2027, ask vendors if they have ideas. Visualize possible futures, environmental literature. JS: Parks Collective increase parks utilization, leads to other good things.

8, JS made available a copy of the YA book he wrote. PW handed it off to AH.

9, Sustainable Prosperity, JS talked to Amie, who wants to include it in the new Master Plan but doesn't have any specific action on it at this point. JS willing to host a series of workshops and invite CC, Chamber of Commerce, et al. Other organizations could table at it. MZ tie-in, talking to AH, integrate into Comprehensive Plan. Farmers have huge issues. AH: cooperative Extension, Ian Smith of FLI, Water Steward w 9-pt plan to target certain areas in Seneca Lake watershed, small but impactful projects. RC: Steve Reiners helped w Community Garden when it started. It would be interesting to ask a Mennonite. JH: Fellenz Farm? PW: we've invited them. JA: they're usually at a farmers' market on Saturdays. JH: NYS Wine & Grape Foundation. RC: Vinny Aliperti does a lot. AH: Friday mornings wineries drop off their clear transparent plastic to Wegmans for the compactor. PK: I have white plastic, what about that?

10, Worm wranglers: JS, MC, AH, JA, and PW are fostering vermiculture colonies to raise for the GRRP. JF gave approval. Want ~1 million worms/trench. JS purchased red wigglers and provided canvas totes. After ~6 weeks, divide the colony and give some of the worms to another worm foster parent and/or GRRP. PW: Who else is willing to raise some? Should we all convene at the GRRP on June 2nd with our colonies and have Jim demo scooping them out? Geneva's municipal water has chlorine, so it's best to either use rainwater, or let the tap water stand in an open container for 24 hrs to let the chlorine escape before using on red wigglers (or plants!) AH and PW saw big ones. JS: European worms get along fine w the red wiggles. Wait until mid-June for more reliably warm weather to give some to the GRRP while keeping some for keeping your colonies going. Feed them as much as they'll eat. If it goes

anaerobic, ease off. When splitting the colony, feed them a favorite near the top and give them a day to find it, then gently scoop a handful into another container to deliver.

11, JA: the GGC was approved to table at the farmer's market to talk about the GRRP and host a compost drop off site (and sign up GRRP volunteers). Fulfilling Master Gardener hours, will have a skinny tote, will talk to Growing Cycle to coordinate. Want ppl to help table so it's covered for ea Saturday. RC: Have chart to compare costs for GRRP cost savings compared to commercial haulers now and after OCLF closes (even higher cost). JA: can do the graphic design if others help w info to share. Starts May 23rd.

RC: Spring Plant Sale: Jim Norwalk will come, but not Amanda (she double-booked herself). Saturday before FM starts: 5/16/26., maybe Jim Engle

12, JA: your cardboard is now welcome at the State St Community Garden, flattened and tucked neatly behind the Little Free Farm Stand (wedged in so that the wind won't blow it away). Removing the tape and labels would be greatly appreciated! Someone took the load that PW stashed behind the stand. Using it for new in-ground beds.

D, Announcements:

1, The Geneva BID will sponsor an Earth Day Clean-Up Wed, 4/22/26, 1pm-3pm (rain date Fri 4/24/26).

2, Naomi Smith of ReUse Systems, Inc., needs volunteers for ReUse's Pop-Up Sale (Eaton furniture, etc.) Fri 4/24 3-6pm (w extra muscle 1-3) & Sat 4/25 9am-2pm (w extra muscle 2-3pm) 122 N Genesee St GEDC. Who's in? Please email Naomi directly: naomi@reusesystemsinc.org or info@reusesystemsinc.org

Here's the breakdown of volunteer times:

1-3pm April 24 Friday (heavy lifting/moving set-up)

2-6pm April 24 Friday

9am-12pm April 25 Saturday

12-2pm April 25 Saturday

2-3pm April 25 Saturday (heavy lifting/moving breakdown)

In February they started a newsletter and are trying to bulk up the subscribe list. People can also sign up on the website (www.reusesystemsinc.org) in the top menu>Subscribe button or in the footer section. Here are the links for the [February](#) & [March](#) editions.

3, Community parks collective meet-up at Richards Park (1 Richards Ave) Sunday, April 26th at 10:00am, rain or shine! Come enjoy a lively morning of seed swapping and park cleanup. Feel free to bring seeds to swap and friends.

4, (too late? The link doesn't work) City Council Strategic Plan Feedback:
<https://www.cityofgenevany.gov/m/newsflash/home/detail/236>

5, JH: If you are interested in participating in the 2026 Garden Walk, please fill out the Doodle Poll below so we can solidify a date and time. Please select all dates and times that you could be available, not just a single preferred time. The free version of Doodle maxes out at 10 options, so afternoon timeslots later in June were left off. If you know anyone who wants to participate in the neighborhood, please send them Julia's way! First weekend in June 6 or Saturday before, w rain date on Sunday, mostly Washington St.

<https://doodle.com/group-poll/participate/dPKEkRwb>

6, Abby Hellauer Geiger is stocking the Geneva Public Library seed library w seed-starting kits and seeks donations of potting soil, pots, seed trays, etc. PK: I have some stuff to offer. MC: put her in touch w Petra from Fruition.

JS: planted American chestnut trees on family property in Marbletown to pollinate Chinese chestnuts. Might not flower this yr but maybe next yr. also cold-stratified chestnut seed stock.

E, Motion to adjourn: MC, 2nd: JH

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Wallace, Chair, Secretary