



Minutes
Green Committee
Wednesday, 4/24/19, 5:00 PM
City Hall Conference Rm.

Attendees: Larry Smart, Larry Campbell, Ken Camera, Richard Cox, Dan Belliveau, Fred Brockway, Jim Norwalk, Jacob Fox, Michael Amadori, Anne Hoyt, Brooke Mayer (new AgriTech Rep)

Invited/welcome Guests: Sara Britting, Tricia Johnson

1. Porous Pavement Opportunities – Geneva

Anne Hoyt prompted us all before the meeting via email that there were a number of opportunities to implement porous pavement strategies in anticipated developments in the City. Porous pavement technology has perfected to the point that even in cold climates they hold up and provide significant natural drainage alternatives to conducting water into the City's storm water systems. By doing this several benefits are derived for the Lake:

Here is the scoop from the Green Building Alliance.

“Permeable pavement (also known as pervious or porous concrete) is a specific type of pavement with a high porosity that allows rainwater to pass through it into the ground below.”

Through this movement, pervious concrete mimics the natural process that occurs on the ground's surface, consequently reducing runoff and returning water to underground aquifers. It also traps suspended solids and pollutants, keeping them from polluting the water stream. Pervious concrete has many applications, most commonly

- low-volume pavements
- residential roads and driveways
- sidewalks

- parking lots
- low-water bridges
- patios
- well linings
- walls (including load-bearing walls).

Anne has a friend - Kris Dadson - who is an administrator in the EPA Region 2 Environmental Quality Center at Syracuse University. With his encouragement and technical expertise Anne identified a number of projects in the City that would provide great opportunities to decrease flooding and at the same time reduce pollution of the Lake. They include:

- Anticipated YMCA project with realignment of their parking lot.
- Anticipated repair and repaving of the City Hall rear parking lot.
- Anticipated demolition of the Touhey building next to the Library to make room for more parking.

Members of the *GGC* have opportunities to advocate to all the stakeholders in these and other projects including being proactive in identifying Grant opportunities with the NYS DEC.

Jacob and Anne seem to be in the know on accessing these opportunities. With regard to the Library project, someone mentioned that the Director, Chris Finger, is amenable to implementing this kind of technology in cooperation with the City. Again, there is a need for the City (and the Library) to confirm that Porous Pavement technology will be considered/installed to benefit the Lake.

After the meeting, Richard provided an email and link to a PBS Science Friday piece on "pocket prairies" that have been installed in urban environments and that could be part of the City's runoff strategy as well.

2. Glyphosate Discussion

Several members of the GGC wanted to have a discussion about this chemical and find out how/where the City is applying it. FYI Gyphosate is a herbicide originally developed by Monsanto (back in the 1970's) for application to control weed growth on food crops and also lawns, parks, and other private gardens. According to a quick Internet search on the name, glyphosate can be found in quite a few popular foods such as breakfast cereals and some fruits. It has been around a long time having been initially registered in 1974.

The City's Director of PWs, Mark Perry, was kind enough to provide a quick synopsis of its pesticide application program which is relatively modest.

"We only have Roundup sprayed in a couple locations. The fence line at the OEO property is sprayed to keep unwanted growth behind the fence along the drop off. We also, sometimes, spray roundup in mulched beds or around trees at the lakefront to assist our crews because we are so shorthanded. Lastly we sometimes have the area around Long Pier and along the rocks on the seawall because stuff grows so fast in these areas. We do not have anyone certified on staff and we contract all this work out."

The discussion in the meeting revolved around whether or not our operation was significant enough to be concerned about with regards to a hazard to residents and to the Lake ecosystem. Larry C. suggested that given that Roundup is readily available that resident use of pesticides possibly dwarfs the City program and that would be where the GGC should focus its attention. Larry S. provided references to research articles that suggested that the long-term effects vary between applicators of the product and people who are simply in an area where it is applied. Another person said that glyphosate breaks down pretty quickly in the presence of sunlight.

[Larry S. can you provide a reference for one of the articles you reviewed that would serve as a background doc????]

Mark added that signs are posted when spraying is done to meet the requirements of the applicator's license. We are pretty sure that the City employs contractors for this work.

After multiple people weighed in on this issue, it was generally agreed that we needed more information on the science behind the effects and after that consideration (if warranted) whether our recommendation would be either to staff (administrative) or in the form of some kind of City Council resolution or proposed change in a City ordinance.

Some research that we should undertake right away is to find out what some of the other large institutions in Geneva are doing regarding weed control and application of pesticides. No one specifically was tasked with asking the Colleges, the Geneva School District, the hospital or FLCC. Hopefully some members of the GGC with good affiliations will see if they can get a statement about these places similar to what Mark Perry provided about the City.

3. Vision 2025 and 2028 Statement on Landfills

The Vision document is a statement of aspiration that the SMI landfill and the Ontario County Landfill will close on the currently stipulated end of their permits - 2025 and 2028 respectively. Like the Green New Deal it is asking legislators and State and local officials to strive to solve a major problem in NYS - solid waste by Mega-landfills.

At the last meeting, GGC members felt that the Vision Statement was a reasonable and appropriate expression of the community's hopes and that CCLrs. had had enough time to review it and ask questions.

Ken was happy to report that the Geneva City Council unanimously passed a Resolution in support of the Vision document at the March 2019 meeting.

4. City Vermi-culture Project Progress Report

Adam Blowers confirmed that the first milestone, the RFP for system design, was issued and the response are due on May 3, 2019. Award of this contract for design

will kick off the project. Additional milestones for the project entail the following along with approximate completion dates:

- Construction RFP - goes out before the end of May 2019
- Award of construction - Early June 2019
- Construction period - late June to end of July 2019
- Commissioning of the facility - Before the end of August 2019.

Ken suggested that these are estimated times based on email communications and discussions with Adam Blowers. We will update this schedule at the next meeting and keep track of developments as they occur.

Tricia Johnson attended the meeting and provided a brief summary of the Blue Print neighborhood food waste collection program for City residents that has just started. The program is supported by a DEC grant as part of the Foundry Remediation project and provides for the free weekly service in the 5th and 6th Wards. ~ 20 households in these Wards have already signed up and an additional 10-12 in other parts of the City who pay \$20/month.

Fred Brockway is currently running the pickup service for Blueprint to get the program started. Jacob confirmed that food waste is being composted by his facility in Seneca Castle but once the City's vermi-culture system is in operation, the food waste from the Blueprint service will be brought to the City transfer station where it will be located.

5. City LED Municipal Lighting

Because Adam was not able to attend the meeting, he was not able to personally report on the progress. Based on his emails, he said that the LED replacement project is 95% complete and that the contractor will be providing a final report on the project sometime in the near future. It probably makes sense for Staff to forward a copy of the report to the GGC for review.

Ken provided tables extracted from the City's Bill Management System (aka "Control Freak") which is able to calculate the reduction in electric consumption as a result of the modernization of our streetlights to the LED technology. Ken showed these tables to the group to show the difference in consumption and the corresponding impact on carbon emissions. There are some data problems that have to be checked out before the analysis is finalized and Ken shared this information with Adam for his attention over the next couple of weeks.

Once that work is completed, Adam agreed that a press release should be put out on what has been accomplished.

6. EV Charging Stations Discussion - Michael

At the March 2019 meeting, Michael reported on the new charging stations that HWS is adding to their capacity.

Another discussion regarding electric vehicle charging stations ensued and essentially referred to the places where this technology made sense.

Status of City Charging Stations:

- a. @ HWS - Currently there are two at the HWS maintenance facility. The Colleges offers charges for free. Are additional units are planned?
- b. @ City Hall - the request has been made that the City install two chargers behind City Hall as part of its elevator project. Need confirmation that this is in the final plans.
- c. @NYS Welcome Center - Currently two chargers in front and charges are free.
- d. Ag Station - Larry S. said that AgriTech has for the moment decided not to fund these installations.
- e. Lakefront - DK about any plans for this.
- f. New Library parking lot - Chris Finger, the Director has been contacted by Anne and encouraged to investigate.

Issues of free vs. charging for kWhs and the charging rate were discussed but no firm idea about where the community is headed in this area.

The GGC members thought that it would be appropriate that we ask Adam back to the next meeting to provide a progress report on what the City is going to do when it does the City Hall project.

7. Other Topics of Interest

This discussion again spawned a request that Ken invite Sage and/or Adam to meet with GGC at the next meeting to discuss a host of topics including:

1. Confirmation of City Hall electric vehicle charging stations
2. Final report on the LED municipal lighting program
3. Creating the Pre-emption St. Extension access to 5&20 and ultimately moving the Finger Lakes railroad yard to the north of the City
4. Climate Smart Community point totals - We are certified Bronze.
5. Leachate processing at the City WWTP - Will Czaplak, operator
6. Rewrite of City of Geneva zoning code - Jim Norwalk.

8. Possible New Members of the GGC

It also makes sense to the note that the attendance at this month's meeting represents a record of 12 people. This includes long-time members as well as some guests and new members.

Larry Smart announced that given his new Associate Director duties at Cornell AgriTech he is stepping down and will be replaced by Brooke Mayer. We thank him for his service and contributions to our efforts. Brooke is Program Manager for the Center of Excellence in Food and Agriculture at Cornell AgriTech. Welcome Brooke.

Also in attendance was Sara Britting and Trish Meaney who expressed an interest in being on the Cmte. Welcome Sara and Trish.

9. Homework for Members

Ken asked a couple of members of the Cmte. to assist with some items:

1. Preparation of a membership list of the *GGC* members and their education and latest job status and/or affiliations. Michael was kind enough to volunteer.
2. Someone else was tasked to write up a bare bones outline on the topic of Glyphosate and a list of the concerns and status of application programs at the other large institutions or entities in the City.
3. Richard Cox made copies and distributed an article from *Science & Nature* on the City of Toledo's recent referendum that passed the "Lake Erie Bill of Rights." Every member of the Cmte was asked to read the article on the rights of natural environments to protection from pollution. It is two pages and everyone was asked to read it and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting.

No other items were brought up for discussion so we adjourned at @ 7:05PM

Thank you for your service to the City and its residents and our beautiful and precious and fragile environment.

Next meeting is May 22th @ 5:15 PM. (note: I will be on vacation and out of the country until May 19th.)