

Minutes
City of Geneva Shade Tree Committee
Thursday February 17th, 2022 Noon
Finger Lakes Welcome Center Conference Room

Present: Joe Venuti, James Norwalk, Jeremy Busch, Jay Freer, James McCorkle, Charlie Rouse, Jim Engel, Ken Camera

Absent: Christen Davis, Dahlia Wist

Guest: Tom Burrall

Approval: Minutes for the January 20th, 2022 meeting.

Old Business:

- Lafayette tree selection (1.25"-1.5" caliper trees) update

Neal Braman has provided no updates. Joe Venuti confirmed Neal will work with Lafayette St. resident Dan Belliveau to coordinate with property owners where trees will be planted. Jim Norwalk will provide Joe Venuti with a rough draft of information to be included on a "new street tree" door hanger. Expected to be completed Spring 2022.

- Tree planting and landscaping summary of Fall 2021 DRI project.

Installed on Exchange St and Castle Street and they are guaranteed for 2 years. More work needs to take place on the south curb hardscape of Castle St. in places. Joe Venuti will provide Jim Norwalk the information to be added to the new tree management database.

- New web-based Tree Management Database update.

The working version of the web-based tree management database is on line. The address is www.genevatrees.com. Joe Venuti, the council liaison and committee members have user names and passwords. Currently Joe Venuti and Jim Norwalk have editorial access. Committee members can write comments and toggle a switch indicating that specific trees/addresses need to be checked/assessed in person. The public login is **Public** and the password is **trees**.

- Tree Nursery planning for 2022

The committee selected the following species to be added to the WWTP Nursery this season:

20 Alleghany Serviceberry, 15 Eastern Redbud, 15 Tulip Poplar, 15 Sugar Maple, 15 Hackberry, 20 American Hophornbeam, 10 Green Hawthorn, 15 Chinkapin Oak

Jim Engel will drive down to Shott Nursery to get them.

- Arbor Day Tree Giveaway planning.

The committee agreed that providing a larger-sized #1 container tree during our giveaway provides a better specimen that is more robust and will have higher survivorship when transplanted than the small tubelings we used in 2021. We agreed to spend about double on the larger trees and shipping costs. Jim Norwalk asked that we use our species selection to support the theme of the GENEVA READS this year. They are sponsoring a community-wide reading of Dr. Douglas Tallamy's Nature's Best Hope. He argues that since songbirds raise their nestlings on a high-energy diet of mostly caterpillars, homeowners should plant trees which host the highest diversity of lepidoptera. These native species are oaks, cherries, and willows. Jay Freer objected to the selection of American Chokecherry due to their susceptibility to 'black knot' disease. Jim Engel thought that native Black Willow would not be a typically favorable tree for a city landowner due to its "messiness" and suckering habit. The committee agreed that the species with the smaller expected mature growth were popular selections and that we should order those abundantly. We agreed to order the following:

25 Alleghany Serviceberry, 25 Eastern Redbud, 10 Tulip Poplar, 10 Black Tupelo, 10 Black Cherry, 10 Swamp White Oak, 10 Northern Red Oak

Most of these will come from American Natives Nursery. The serviceberry and poplar will be included in the Shott order to be picked up by Jim Engel to save on freight costs.

Dahlia Wist and Christen Davis were nominated to organize the event.

New Business:

- Committee membership updates

One Geneva resident applied to fill the vacant seat on the committee. Jim Norwalk is attempting to contact him by email.

- The committee discussed initiating a project aimed at beautification of Geneva's 4 recognized gateway points. Estimates by Joe Venuti were made at \$500/tree installed. Councilors Camera and Burrall agreed to petition City Council for support.

Next Meeting:

Thursday March 17th, NOON, Geneva Lakefront Visitor's Center or ZOOM