

Minutes
City of Geneva Shade Tree Committee
Thursday January 20th, 2022 Noon
Via ZOOM

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

Absent: Ken Camera, Keith Polanski (resigned)

Guest: Michael Amadori

Approval: Minutes for the November 18th, 2021 meeting.

Old Business:

- Late 2021 Tree removal updates by Craft Tree Removal and Land Clearing

All scheduled removals were completed by late 2021. Stumps were not ground because the soil saturation was such that the machinery would have caused much damage. Grinding will happen in 2022.

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

Small/Medium:

European Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)

American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*) added from WWTP Nursery stock

Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn (*Crataegus crusgalli inermis*)

Yoshino Cherry (*Prunus x yedoensis*) (not available at Schictels but widely available)

Medium/Large

Black Maple 'Greencolumn' (*Acer nigrum*)

Chinkapin Oak (*Quercus muelenbergii*)

Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)

Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)

Neal Braman has provided no updated information. Expected completion moved to 2022. Jim Norwalk reminded Joe Venuti that we expect Neal to work with Lafayette St. resident Dan Belliveau to coordinate with property owners where trees will be planted.

- New web-based Tree Management Database update.

The trial version of the web-based tree management database is on line. The address is www.genevatrees.com. Committee members are asked to play with the search capabilities to see if they can make suggestions about functionality. Joe Venuti wants to make sure that there is an entry option to record and query information on trees that are targets of citizen complaints so that the DPW can manage these services more effectively.

- Main Street Grant project update.

Tree pits prepared and planted in late 2021 by DeMaria Nursery. Some short-term maintenance will be needed. Joe Venuti will provide Jim Norwalk the information to be added to the new tree management database.

- 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.

- Tree Nursery planning for 2022

Joe Venuti informed the committee that 10 birches (*Betula* sp.) were delivered to the city by the Arbor Day Foundation as part of Geneva's Tree City USA designation. DPW staff added them to the nursery.

Jim Norwalk is in the process of working with American Native Nursery to create the order for this year's addition to the nursery. Once the available species are summarized, he will pass this along to the committee in order to make up the order.

We plan on adding 100 new trees this season (our 3rd). Jim Engel estimates that there will be upwards of a dozen trees from 2020 ready to replant this season. He added that soil and wood chips are probably in good supply on site. Joe Venuti thinks we might need/want to move our location to accommodate other upgrades and activities at the Doran Ave. complex. Jim Norwalk estimates that we should plan on occupying space to 400 tree bags if we consider that we might have the nursery stock on a 4-year rotation of 100 trees per year.

Funds generated by the sale of firewood by Councilor Burrall will cover most if not all expenses this year.

Michael Amadori announced that the HWS Day of Service is Saturday April 23rd and that any labor needed by the committee (mulching, weeding, etc.) can be completed by student volunteers that day.

- Arbor Day Tree Giveaway planning.

Jim Norwalk is coordinating tree giveaway tree selections (tubelings) with American Natives Nursery. Once availability for this spring is updated, the committee will be able create an order. Christen Davis reminded the group that small/medium trees were popular selections last year and suggests we should provide more. Last year American Serviceberry was in demand.

- Lakes Edge Seneca Development update

No new information. The committee would like to provide the planners with our list of species.

- Genesee Park updates

Engineers from Environmental Ecology are designing a presentation influenced by citizen input to be presented to City Council soon. Trees meant to be saved in the park (i.e., the large Bur Oak) will have soil removed from the deep roots with bursts of compressed air. This method worked well last season on a very large Horse Chestnut one block north of the park.

New Business:

- Committee membership updates

Currently expired terms of Jim Engel and Jay Freer are being renewed. Keith Polanski filled in a vacancy of Sarah Meyer's expired term and he has decided to step down because his work schedule won't let him attend meetings. Therefore, we now have one vacancy.

- 2022 DPW Budget and Tree Management and Planting Objectives.

The tree care budget is \$120k. A supplemental \$20k was allocated to fund tree removals along the Greenway Trail (the abandoned railroad bed which crosses Wards 4 and 6). DPW Director Joe Venuti will earmark this money from the general budget to supply additional staff labor for tree care.

- Removal request of 2 large, dilapidated (Freer assessment) Silver Maples from 50 N. Brook St.

Committee members are asked to instruct citizens with tree complaints to call or email the DPW so that problems can be addressed efficiently.

- Jay Freer wants to acquire EAB-resistant ash trees from an Indiana group.

When he receives these, he would like to grow them at the WTTP tree nursery. The committee is in favor of this.

Next Meeting:

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