

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

Present: Joe Venuti, Mark Perry, James Norwalk, Jeremy Busch, James McCorkle, Charlie Rouse

Absent: Ken Camera, Dahlia Wist, Christen Davis, Jay Freer, Jim Engel

Approval: Minutes for the October 20th, 2022 approved without modification.

Old Business:

- Lafayette tree planting update. All trees for the project have now been installed. One Eastern Redbud at 127 Lafayette Ave. has been relocated to 219 High Street.
- Jim Norwalk has been receiving removal updates from Steve Horton and has been logging them into the database. Major aspects of the database which still need updating are DRI plantings and removal along the 5 and 20 corridor. The tree removals and plantings from the NYSDEC soil remediation project has not been forwarded this year. Jim Norwalk asked whether Steve Horton could be trained to use the database to identify trees they remove. Jim Norwalk often gets incomplete information about removals and is usually forced to do site visits to get useful information to keep accurate records. Mark Perry agreed and said that Steve could provide the specific serial number of each removed tree if he consulted the database.
- Joe Venuti reported that the American Basswood tree at 20 Seneca St has been replaced, and that the dead DRI hawthorns on Exchange St. have been replaced. The new basswood in front of the Seneca Apartments has been secured with a wooden stake.
- Joe Venuti has worked with the city comptroller to help earmark the dedicated funds from firewood sales.
- Eighteen trees from the city nursery have been planted by the DPW. Mark Perry will forward specific information and locations so Jay Freer can place trunk guards ASAP.
- Joe Venuti provided James McCorkle with information to reapply for Geneva's TREE CITY USA status. Deadline is December 15th.
- At the end of 2022, the committee will have two open seats. Christen Davis will not reapply. Jeremy Busch and James Norwalk will reapply for another term. Joe Venuti said he hasn't seen any new applications.
- REMINDER: When Committee members are approached with tree complaints, Mark asked that they be instructed to send an email to complaint@geneva.ny.us or call the Engineering Dept. at 1-315-789-3101. Emailed complaints should cc a resident's ward representative.

New Business:

- Identifying locations for Fall 2022 planting of WWTP trees.

There are a few more locations where trees have been requested according to notes in the database. Otherwise Mark Perry and Jim Norwalk will work to identify a list of new tree locations. Mark suggested we focus on Wards 1 and 2 since most recent removals have been from these Wards.

- Planning Arbor Day 2023 and possible coordination with city Earth Day activities.

The committee wishes to keep our Arbor Day celebration the way it has been. It is successful and our location in the city is preferable to the Earth Day/Mission Zero location at the Town of Geneva Community Center.

- Trees for WWTP nursery 2023

Jim Norwalk will begin to identify tree species available from American Natives Nursery, Schott Nursery, and others for giveaway for the 2023 Arbor Day giveaway and for addition to the WWTP nursery next spring. The committee wants more small/medium trees added to the nursery since we have more proportionate need for these in small tree lawns and underneath utilities.

- Proposal to skip December meeting,

The committee agreed to cancel the December 2022 meeting.

Next Meeting:

Thursday January 19th, 2023, NOON, Geneva Lakefront Visitor's Center