

Minutes
City of Geneva Shade Tree Committee
Thursday October 20th
, 2022 Noon
Finger Lakes Welcome Center Conference Room

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

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

Approval: Minutes for the July 21st meeting, The committee met during normal times in August and September but did not make a quorum. Therefore, no minutes were compiled, and we postponed accepting the July minutes until today.

Old Business:

- Lafayette tree planting update. All trees for the project have now been installed. Jay Freer has put trunk guards on every tree that didn't already have a watering bag affixed to the trunk. One Eastern Redbud at 127 Lafayette Ave. will be relocated to another location because the homeowner did not like the placement in front of another tree behind the sidewalk.
- Fiber Optic utility project tree removals. Mark Perry doesn't think there were or will be any for this project. All tree work was accomplished by pruning.
- Jim Norwalk has been receiving removal updates from Steve Horton and has been logging them into the database. Mark Perry said the crew has been getting a lot done and that the newly hired DPW crew members enjoy that type of work. Jim has not received any updates from the DEC soil remediation leaders. Other major aspects of the database which still need updating are DRI/Main St. Grant plantings and removals and ground-checking known database errors/uncertainties. Jim N. will continue working on these through Fall 2022.
- We did not discuss the push for a staff arborist position at the DPW. The addition of Mark Perry serving as the tree specialist, the hiring of a capable tree crew, and the maintenance of adequate tree care budget by City Council.
- 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

Mark Perry will contribute to an upcoming issue of the Finger Lakes Times which will highlight the city nursery and advertise the availability of our first round of trees. Reporter Steve Buchiere will write it.

- Cornell Hybrid Oak Project

Cornell researchers will be collecting this data now that COVID restrictions are over.

- Genesee Park Tree Layout and soil removal

The committee reviewed the layout of new trees for Genesee Park. There will be Red Oaks, Black Maples 'Green Column', Sugar Maples, American Elm 'Princeton', Persian Parrotias, Eastern Redbuds, and multistem Thornless Cockspur Hawthorns.

- Tree City USA recertification

James McCorkle will complete the city's annual certification in late November or early December.

- Updated membership information on city website, renewals, new members

Jeremy Busch consulted the city website to determine what our advertised membership is and when current terms will expire. Soonest expirations are James Norwalk, Jeremy Busch, Christen Davis on 12/31/2022. The website still lists Keith Polanski as a member though he resigned late last year. Jim Norwalk spoke to Ahmad Whitfield and invited him to submit an application.

- Accounting for firewood sale proceeds and disbursements in the city budget

Tom Burrall has deposited over \$1000.00 in proceeds from firewood sales which are earmarked for tree projects. He is working with the comptroller and the DPW to maintain this as an earmark within the city budget/accounting process. Jim Norwalk asked the committee whether we should work toward forming a 501c3 organization to manage Arbor Day and nursery funds outside of the city government.

Next Meeting:

Thursday November 17th, NOON, Geneva Lakefront Visitor's Center