

Minutes
City of Geneva Shade Tree Committee
Thursday September 21st, 2023 Noon
Finger Lakes Welcome Center Conference Room

Present: Joe Venuti, James Norwalk, Jeremy Busch, Jay Freer, Charlie Rouse

Absent: Mark Perry, Ken Camera, James McCorkle, Jim Engel, Daisy Hoyt

Approval: Minutes for the August 17th meeting approved unanimously

Old Business:

- Hosting www.genevatrees.com on the city website

No update. The site is currently being hosted by database builder George Farnsworth and has been reimbursed by the city through 2023.

- Membership updates:

Membership applications will be handled by new City Clerk, Michelle Wright. James McCorkle's term ends December 31st, 2023. Jim Norwalk will see if he would like reappointment.

- Identifying locations for planting of WWTP trees and response to outreach.

Mark Perry has created a spreadsheet of over 100 requests received to date. Many are for small site and several of the requests have been denied because the property does not have an actual tree space at the right-of-way. We currently have confirmation of placement of 42 of 56 available trees. Mark will seek to place the available 10 basswoods and catalpas at cemeteries and at a location at Cornell Agritech.

- Finger Lakes Times article ideas

Jim Norwalk is working on 2 articles for the Finger Lakes Times: one on the nursery work; one on problem street trees of Geneva.

- Shade Tree information on the city web site

Jeremy Busch agreed to write a report about what information is missing and how it should be improved. The committee voted unanimously in favor of giving Jeremy Busch authority to align the language describing the Shade Tree Committee and its mission, etc. on the city website, especially pertaining to making the language of relevant city code align with information published on the website. He will coordinate this work with the city web master.

- Crab apple update from Jay Freer:

The order with Wafler Nursery is underway. The grafts have been made this fall and will be received by the city in Fall 2024 for placement in the WWTP nursery. The city will need to arrange for pickup and delivery.

- Selection of interim chair to cover Jim Norwalk's absence from October through December 2023:

No nomination was made. We have cancelled the October and December meetings. the Joe Venuti will coordinate communication to summarize the fall 2023 planting results at the November meeting.

- Follow up with Arbor Day tree recipients. Jim Norwalk has sent Charlie Rouse the recipient list. Charlie reported that the oak he got from the 2023 giveaway does NOT have oak wilt as he feared.
- Topped trees at 424/418 Exchange St. Removed tree at 11 Rose St. and Arbor Day Ginkgo trees removed at West Street Elementary:

The City and/or the BID should communicate to downtown business operators/landlords that all tree pruning need to be coordinated with the city. The young crabapple at 424 Exchange (Baroody's) was topped without consent. The ginkos removed by the school district at West Street School were not in the city right-of-way.

- The following requests for tree work have been submitted:

99 St. Clair St., tree #7694 Norway Maple, 26" dia. REMOVE

141 North Exchange St., tree #9523 Callery Pear, REMOVE looks like ash species

154 Maxwell Ave, Sugar Maple, LOOKS HEALTHY, perhaps a prune.

43 Oak St. Dead ash, REMOVE

39 North Main St., tree #2254 Green Ash, KEEP. Still in good condition. Joe Venuti will negotiate with the homeowner to apply EAB injection treatments.

40 Elmwood, 10 Delancey, have dead hawthorns which were donated by NYSEG and transplanted as bare root saplings. REMOVE

23 Norwood Ave. new 'Winter King' hawthorn has a few leaves emerging as of 8/17/23. PLEASE WATER AND MONITOR

115 N. Main. 'Snow Goose' cherry is dead. REMOVE

64 West St. Serviceberry has emergent leaves. PLEASE WATER AND MONITOR.

13 Columbia St. PRUNE

246 William St. NO OBSERVABLE ISSUE

New Business:

- Homeowner concerns about Box-elder bugs:

Jay Freer contacted the Cornell Agritech entomologist who stated that these insects are not pests but can be knocked into a cup of soapy water to be removed and disposed of.

- Missing trees on 5&20 median:

There is one Honeylocust that was sheered during a traffic accident. At least one other DRI tree is dead along the east side of the road near the hotel.

Next Meeting: Thursday November 17th, 2023 NOON at the Geneva Visitor's Center Conference Room.