

City of Geneva Green Committee Sept 17, 2024 Meeting

Finger Lakes Welcome Center

Present: Pat Wallace (Secretary), Marcia Cullen, Larry Campbell, Richard Cox, Pat Keefe, Jason Rearick

PW: We usually start by approving the previous meeting's minutes.

MC: So move

LC: second

RC had a hc of the agenda and ran the meeting: First on the agenda is the Landfill.

PW: Next Tues, 9/24/24, there will be a meeting at the Town of Geneva Town Hall on White Springs Rd where the Free Stuff Day is held regarding the closure or not of the Ontario County landfill.

RC: there was a waste analysis done according to the specs of vermiculture which was supposed to be an analysis of everyone's waste. (Jacob had said that the two vermiculture trenches should be large enough to take care of all of Geneva's organic waste.)

PK: it (organic matter decomposing in the anaerobic environment of the landfill) produces odor and methane. We should send all of Geneva's organic contributions to the Geneva Resource Recovery Park to make a difference (because the aerobic environment of the vermiculture composting would create less, if any, of these odors and methane).

LC: Geneva is small compared to the total. Kan Camera wrote a good piece, talked about other options. The consultants probably talked about other options such as incineration, Construction & Demolition debris.

MC: I read an article about Singapore incinerating all of their garbage and filtering the air so that it comes out clean.

PK: my old county incinerated theirs too, but there's no way to really end up with clean air.

MC: they use the ash resulting from the toxic smoke to make bricks.

PK: non-structural concrete

LC: cinder blocks on Brook St deteriorated

RC: NJ required incineration, had one and only one incinerator, but it's difficult because it's wet so they have to keep adding heat. The fire is not self-sustaining. (There were supposed to be several incinerators around the state but they did not have enough material to keep them all running so it was concentrated in only one incinerator. The material incinerated could not sustain the combustion, which has to be at a very high temperature to keep the pollution low, so the fire had to be augmented which I believe with gas-powered burners.)

PW: and produces toxic by-products such as furans (and dioxins).

MC: they contain everything, then filter the smoke.

RC: the concern (for the end product and off-burning exhaust of incineration) is the same as the wastewater treatment plant sludge that has been spread on farmlands, and then the PFAS forever chemicals get into the food.

PK: scrubbers spray fine mist of steam to condense carbon into sludge.

MC: is anyone going 9/24?

PW: I am.

MC: I thought it was interesting. Singapore is advanced.

JR: small country

LC: another option is reduce, reuse, recycle. Smaller, but County probably makes a lot of money.

RC: if the landfill is open only to Ontario County, Cassella will pull out. If we take it over, we'll be liable for the groundwater etc.

LC: we would be responsible for the safety for years.

PW: 30 yrs

RC: next up on the agenda is zoning, but the zoning guy's not here.

PK: what's wild? All flowers are wild somewhere. This is like an HOA. Invasives, non-natives, list of offenders

PW: Garden Rebels google doc. I only have 6 addresses so far, need more.

PK: from my sidewalk to the curb is ~30", other places it's ~15'

RJ: the rule should say something like 10' from the curb.

PK: maybe they took some HOA rule and Cut & Pasted it.

LC: sidewalks are supposed to be shoveled but people don't do that and it's not enforced.

PK: Jim Norwalk is being victimized by complaints.

LC: not many people are concerned about this rule.

PK: not many people are concerned about recycling

RC: rainwater bioswales need these perennials. Chris Smart once told me that my lawn, which is just grass, will allow rainwater to just run off. Someone should work on writing a new regulation.

PW: Catherine Price and David West are already working on it.

RC: Next on the agenda is the Native Plant Sale, 9/28. I need help hanging posters. I have a list of places I've already put them so far. You could go as far as Canandaigua to Waterloo.

PK: Do you have a list of people who have participated in the past? Email contact? There's probably a lot of repeat customers.

RC: next on the agenda is Mission Zero Save-the-Date notifications. It'll be Saturday, 4/26/25, 8:00-1:00

MC: do the Plant Sale people have their own tents?

RC: yes. Last time when it rained, they wouldn't let us in the building even though they had said we could.

LC: what about the gazebo?

RC: too small, and we want to be by the walkway.

MC: allowed to?

RC: the seed give-away was in the gazebo. I sent the Save-the-Date letter to Julie but she didn't reply yet. I changed some of the things (ads? Dates.)

PW: it doesn't need all the details in it since it's only a Save-the-Date notification. It could probably be about two sentences.

RC: I've been trying to entice educational people to join MZ: HWS, Children's Hours, City school if and only of it can include an art element. I'd also like to do a poetry thing.

MC: High school green club? Sophie Augustine?

RC: I'm disappointed the way they evaporated after January (last year).

MC: who's the teacher in charge?

PW: Mrs. Abbott

RC: not for a year now.

PK: need a moderator with continuity

LC: I saw some kids on Maxwell St walking to school and asked them what time their first class is. It's 7:30!

RC: we need to come up with a slogan for MZ. The ones we've used in the past have been Joining hands to meet the challenge..., Creating new pathways....

PW: no one can remember those.

MC: it's lovely but wordy

MC: what about the Zero carbon, zero pesticides, zero waste?

JR: good slogan

MC: it should be more prominent on the poster

PW: yes

JR: I got Mission Zero mixed up with Vision Zero (which fights traffic fatalities)

RC: but we don't want to cover too much of the picture

PK: it's too much to read quickly, like when you're driving by

MC: get the zero, zero, zero business bigger

RC: I'm beginning to think of the one in 2026 and would like to do something based on "What if We Get it Right?" I want to invite HWS, FLCC, RIT to bring pictures, mock-ups, visions of what the future will look like if we get it right and blossom into a post carbon, post waste, post pesticide/PFAS culture.

LC: Request for Proposals

RC: a vision of a positive future, winning through difficult times, drama, dance

MC: who wrote it?

RC: Ayana Elizabeth Johnson. I want to suggest it to Geneva Reads, elementary and high school. It's r=very readable.

MC: there should be a children's book version

RC: I'll send them that idea. What's the vision of what it will be like. Technology that we have plus more. We need to be like sea shells, tougher than the toughest synthetics, capture sunlight like plants do

LC: we do capture sunlight

RC: Our waste needs to be food for something else, just like it is in the rest of Nature.

PK: now? It's hard to find out about [event] things going on, like at HWS.

LC: you could get on their email list.

RC; they're not good about getting the word out. You guys think about ideas for the next 2 MZs. "Moving Forward."

PK: Simplify! Call it Earth Day. People know what that means.

RC: Next on the agenda is Garden Walk. When?

PK: it should happen in conjunction with the Garden Rebels in Spring and Fall. Change the HOA deal, allow and encourage Natives; tour; Don't say "Native"; people think they're ugly.

MC: start small, in June when things are in bloom

PK: it would take a year of notetaking to know when things are in bloom

RC: Next is the Mayor's Tree-lighting ceremony

PW: at last month's meeting, Catherine Price suggested that as a good BID event to start trying to get people to start separating trash, recyclables, and compostables because it includes popcorn. About ten volunteers would be needed to monitor into which of the three bins people are throwing their stuff.

MC: compost bins need to be clearly labeled with pictures for what's acceptable

PW: that would depend on who's handling the composting and how big the operation is. We can ask Catherine Price. Yes, pictures help.

PK: people don't care. I'll volunteer once but not long-term

LC: the Open House for Wards 4, 5, and 6 at the library Aug 31<sup>st</sup> was a good meeting. They talked about having a problem with loiterers from Byrne Dairy (across the street) so they took out the benches, but Peter needs a place to shower. Other problems included trash in the neighborhoods. It was a long meeting but useful. One woman spoke on her own behalf, needing medical and psychological help. Maybe someone suggested Flacra (next door). Last night's budget meeting was late, talked about funding departments, water fund, sewer fund, DPW, Parks, proposed 1.5 more employees for this work, increases, changing investment advisor. Interesting debates regarding differences of opinions, keep taxes down, tax rates, Chris Lavin says with assessments going up, taxes increase a lot but it's a mechanical thing based on value.

MC: well attended?

LC: no, only a few people. Even at regular Council meetings, always most guest chairs are empty except when the Police Accountability Board protests were going on and attracted more people. Now people can watch by zoom

PW: or watch the recording afterwards

RC: for the 5&20 medians, Jim Engels suggested additional and different flowers that would bloom throughout the year, and will make a proposal

PW: this was a safety issue for the workers, will the new plants need care?

RC: no, I don't think so. I move we adjourn

MC: second!