

Minutes
City of Geneva Shade Tree Committee
Thursday May 16th, 2024 Noon
Finger Lakes Welcome Center Conference Room

Present: John Brennan, James Norwalk, Jeremy Busch, Jay Freer, Charlie Rouse, Jim Engel

Absent: Joe Venuti, James McCorkle, Tom Burrall, Daisy Hoyt

Approval: Minutes for the April 18th meeting not presented due to a printer issue

Old Business:

- Membership updates:

The recent turnover of the City Clerk has made the record keeping for current membership and recent appointments difficult to organize. We will need clarification and possible reappointments of certain committee members by the City Manager to clarify our current membership. We now know that Daisy Hoyt has not been seated because she didn't report to the City Clerk during the 30-day period she had to go swear her oath. John Brennan agreed to find out further clarifications

- Jim Norwalk is in the process of updating the tree database with 2023 tree removal and tree planting information with Mark Perry. Joe Venuti reports that tree stumps of fall removals will be ground out in the Spring of 2024. No further updates.
- No update on the three FLT articles Jim Norwalk is writing on the creation and use of the tree database, the creation of the tree nursery, and the problem tree species in Geneva.
- New NYSEG trees and other problem trees:

Jim Norwalk provided the following information to the committee

99 St. Clair St., tree #7694 Norway Maple, 26" dia. REMOVED 2024

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

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

114 N Main St. tree #3066 Sugar Maple. Jay Freer request this be added to the REMOVAL list.

An Eastern Redbud (#9922) planted in Fall 2023 at 120 Lewis St. may be dead. Jim Norwalk will mark it for inventory in the database.

Daisy Hoyt is following up with BID Director Katherine Price regarding dead tree replacement.

Jay Freer reported aphid infestation on some new DRI-planted hawthorns (C. crus-galli) which has resulted in leaf-curl. He contacted Cornell Entomology Professor, Greg Loeb, for identification. He was unable to make a specific identification, but ruled out Four-spotted Aphids, a common pest on hawthorn which often cause curl on young leaves. As of now we have no specific recommendations for treatment.

Jeremy Busch complained that the hawthorns are messy nuisances when dropping fruit along sidewalks and benches.

Jay Freer would like an update on the planting plan for the 2 disease-resistant American Elms he purchased, which are now in root control bags at the city nursery.

There is no update on the tree planting suggestions for the Dunkin Donut project (Exchange and North Sts.) or the lakefront tunnel.

New Business:

- Arbor Day 2024 discussion:

The event went well and was well-attended. We gave away nearly everything except some Tulip Poplars which were planted in the nursery by Jim Engel. Daisy Hoyt stated that the Tulip Poplars were in poor condition and questioned their viability for transplant...swollen and weak root collars. She suggested we no longer source trees from Schott Nursery. Jim Norwalk agreed that the day-long truck drive to Maryland each year is tiresome and unnecessary.

- Saturday April 20th HWS Day of Service volunteers:

Over 100 14-inch root control bags were filled in anticipation of new saplings for 2024 in the WWTP nursery. This effort is very helpful.

- Proposal for nursery work over the summer:

The committee agreed to postpone all Thursday meetings until September 19th, 2024. Instead, we will meet for volunteer work sessions on third Thursday mornings at 9AM at the WWTP to do various chores like weeding, pruning, growth assessments, etc. as needed.

- We need to refill the staff position responsible for coordinating Fall tree - planting since the departure of Mark Perry.
- John Brennan asked what the industry standard for combining information such as that contained in our database with a GIS system.
- Wafler Trees can deliver the 60 grafted crabapples as early as Fall 2024.

Next Meeting: Thursday September 19th, 2024 NOON at the Geneva Visitor's Center Conference Room.

