

Minutes
City of Geneva Shade Tree Committee
Thursday October 17th, 2024 Noon
Finger Lakes Welcome Center Conference Room

Present: John Brennan, James Norwalk, Jay Freer, Charlie Rouse, Daisy Hoyt, James Anderson

Excused: Joe Venuti, Jeremy Busch, James McCorkle, Jim Engel

Absent: Tom Burrall

Approval: Minutes for the September 19th, 2024 meeting approved with one spelling error correction .

Old Business:

- Membership updates:

The committee membership and term ending date is as follows:

Jay Freer December 31, 2024
James Anderson December 31, 2024
James Engel December 31, 2024
Charles Rouse December 31, 2025
Jeremy Busch December 31, 2025
James Norwalk (Chair) December 31, 2025
Tom Burrall December 31, 2025
James McCorkle December 31, 2026
Daisy Hoyt December 31, 2026
Staff Liaison – Joe Venuti, Director of Public Works
Council Liaison – John Brennan

- Jim Norwalk has no update on the articles he proposed writing to the Finger Lakes Times.
- New NYSEG trees and other problem trees:

Jim Norwalk provided the following information to the committee

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

13 Columbia St. Request for pruning. Unclear if this has been complete according to database records.

114 N Main St. tree #3066 Sugar Maple. Jay Freer requests 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. A request for a replacement has been made.

Jim Norwalk observed that the leaning American Basswood we have been monitoring in front of the Seneca Towers Apartments has been removed. Joe

Venuti wrote to say that an effort to correct its lean was unsuccessful, so the tree was removed.

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

- Jackie Augustine (Blueprint Geneva) has submitted a grant application to River Networks \$3.3 million Rooting Resilience project. The goal is to fund a thorough tree planting project in Wards 5 and 6 and create a source tree nursery at Crystal Street Garden.
- The following trees are available for Fall 2024

Small/Medium 15 total

3 Eastern Redbud
9 American Hop-hornbeam
3 White Fringetree

Medium/Large 41 total

11 Chinkapin Oak
8 Tulip Poplar
4 Northern Red Oak
2 Swamp White Oak
7 Sugar Maple
3 Black Gum
3 American Elm
3 American Basswood

Charlie Rouse wants to know what we should do with the mis-shaped nursery trees that don't have good enough form to use as street trees. He thinks we need to do a better job with structural pruning early on. Jim Norwalk suggests we identify these trees for park and cemetery planting.

New Business:

- Tree nursery update, future needs for new saplings, trees that need immediate planting.

Jim Norwalk counted 74 empty tree bags at the nursery which can be filled this Fall. Some are from dead saplings and others were left over from the Day of Service last Spring. We may have as many as 36 Fringe Trees and 36 Eastern Redbuds and as many as 60 grafted crabapples from Wafler Nursery ready to transplant in early November.

There are approximately 250 14" root control bags stored on the bench in the WWTP greenhouse.

- We are scheduling a nursery workday to replace our normal November meeting time. Jay Freer will let us know when the crabapples are ready and we will spend the session to transplant them into the nursery. We would like to wait until the fall planting trees are removed first.
- Jim Norwalk would like more training for city staff on using the database to communicate tree work. Often the detail he receives from staff lack sufficient

useful information for him to enter data. As a result he spends too much time driving from address to address to see what type of work actually took place. Can the Director of the DPW, Joe Venuti help with this?

- Jay Freer announced that the ornamental pears in front of Lyons National Bank of Exchange St. have been over-shaped and pruned without consultation. He wants to know what the DPW response will be?
- John Brennan reports that the city attorney informed him that White Oak Nursery can be a source for trees without a conflict of interest.
- The Aeneas McDonald Police Benevolent Association is creating a memorial on the NE corner of North St. and Exchange St.

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