

## Clifton Park GREEN Committee Meeting Minutes from November 25, 2025

GREEN Committee Members Present: Gerald Danielski, Diane Betzwieser, Marc Laymon, Joanne Coons, Cathy Fruhauf, Nancy Tudor, James Harding, Anne Orgren, Tom Piwinski

Nancy Tudor called the meeting to order at 7pm.

1. Pumpkin Smash: Rainy day, no one turned up at Amity Reformed Church, and there were approximately 100 pumpkins smashed between Bowman Orchards and St. Edward's Church.
2. Green Committee Banner: Design #2 on the choices won. Nancy showed the cloth banner to everyone. It was very well received. It is smaller and will be easily transported and displayed at events.
3. Electrification of Homes (heat pump presentation): Joanne Coons coordinated a panel of contractors and homeowners that answered questions related to installation, use and costs of the heat pumps. It was at the Clifton Park Halfmoon Library. It was a knowledgeable group, and they answered the questions that Joanne had prepared and later the questions from the audience. It was very informative. Joanne stated that in order to get NYSERDA incentives you cannot have an oil, gas, or coal backup source.
4. General Meeting of Environmental Groups in the town that do environmental projects. Nancy, Diana, and Joanne attended. Approximately 20 chairpersons from the different groups met and discussed what they had been doing. They decided that they would share Meeting Minutes with the other committees and meet quarterly. One of the main topics discussed was the proposed Cement Plant on Route 9. The Friends of Open Space have a petition against its implementation. <https://www.change.org/p/protect-clean-air-and-water-urge-clifton-park-to-reject-concrete-batch-plant-proposal>
5. Brainstorm and Plan for 2026 – this part of the meeting was to brainstorm and discuss goals and plans for 2026.
  - a. Update the Town Comprehensive Plan and include Sustainability planning as well. The GREEN Committee would like to see the Comprehensive Plan updated. (Comprehensive plans should ideally be updated every 5-10 years; Clifton Park's was completed in 2006ish, the community has changed significantly since 2006, it would be a good idea to revisit a plan update. More guidance on this is offered in the CSC action description for Comp Plan with Sustainability Elements. CSC grants can be used for this action.
  - b. Sustainability Plan was briefly discussed (see notes at the end). Comp Plan with Sustainability Elements.
  - c. Climate Action Plan – (see notes at the end) would like to see this Plan for the Town of CP. Nancy Tudor contacted Haley Balcanoff, *Sustainability Planner*, at the Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC). Ms. Balcanoff works on regional initiatives, including the NYS Climate Smart Communities Program. Her work focuses on assisting municipalities with climate action and sustainability planning. Nancy will work through the Town Council Liaison to ask about this plan from CDRPC which is free to the town.
  - d. Transfer Station Update. Schenectady Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) has grant money available to use by the end of the year. Nancy Tudor was able to order three 3-gallon containers. She talked to Don McCune from the transfer station and Daniel Clemens from Buildings and Grounds and they said it was Ok to get them. Probably will not do any more until after January and the new liaison is appointed to the GREEN Committee. Joanne Coons contacted FoodScraps360 and asked them a number of questions concerning their operation and food scraps pickup. She is waiting to hear back. They pick up food scraps and have them composted.

- e. Lawn care- Joanne contacted Saratoga CCE (Madison and Jessica) about doing a presentation on lawncare/pesticides. They are busy at night training people for various jobs such as master gardeners. However, they could do something during the day. It was suggested that Joanne contact them in February and do a presentation at the Clifton Park Halfmoon Library. She could videotape it and have it available on the Town Green Committee webpage. Bids go out in January for lawncare and the sooner we can get the information out the better. It was suggested to put it in the Parks and Recreation Spring Summer bulletin, but we thought it would be too late to do it in March. The talk will be on chemicals to be used and quantities, how short to cut lawn and when, and what the intervals should be. (This has now been scheduled for January 6th at 2:00 pm at the library)
  - f. Repair Cafe – need dates for 2026; possible 1st weekend in March, and 2nd weekend in May. Cathy will get back to Nancy with the dates. She has to check with her key repair people. Diane Betzwieser will get a spread sheet set up with the data she has collected so she has an inclusive email list.
  - g. Giveaway Weekend 2026 – This will be our 4<sup>th</sup> Giveaway Weekend. The Town Giveaway date has not been set. We would like the Giveaway weekend to be prior to the bulk waste cleanup. A suggestion was made that people come and pick up stuff dropped off at the Commons, advertise on social media larger items people have. We will talk more about this with our new liaison.
  - h. Winterfest 2026 (February 2026) - Joanne will talk with Robinson Ace Hardware. A suggestion was maybe to give out packets of native plant seeds. Joanne said she would talk to the owner.
6. Habitat for Humanity - Dave Harrison, the Manager of the Albany HfH Store, coordinates pick up from the CP Transfer Station and recently coordained with the TS on more frequent and routine pickups from the TS. He stated that the process is working for them and they are satisfied with what they are picking up from the trailer. In the past there was confusion as to who decided what went into the trailer, (did you need a photo etc.); however, based on conversation with Dave, the TS workers are deciding what goes into the trailer. Diane said that she saw a gentleman who was donating some wire shelving ask the person at the TS kiosk to let him put the item in. The Transfer Station person got the key and helped the person put the item in. It is thought that the TS people are the ones that determine if an item goes in the trailer. If HfH does not want something when they arrive, they let the TS employees know. Discussion also followed that we should advertise this option much more.
  7. Park and Recreation Booklet is due Monday, December 8 for items we want to advertise.
  8. Climate Smart Community Grants- a subcommittee met with Jennifer Viggiani to review grant suggestions. Jennifer would like to find out what people want in the town and then go after the appropriate grant. Further discussion on this will be based on our 2026 GREEN Committee Plan submittal.

Other business: Diane Betzwieser will contact Jean Lorch (Shenendehowa liaison) to get 4-6 tables at Science Discovery Night for Earth Day activities.

**Announcement: Next meeting 6 pm Wood Room December 22nd.**

Adjourned 8 pm.

Additional Notes on Plans - All three types of plans are similar but also different:

- **Comprehensive Plan**: A comprehensive plan also provides a vision for how a community wants to grow over a 10- to 20-year period and recommends steps for how to achieve that vision. As part of that vision,

the comprehensive planning process offers an opportunity for members of the community to provide input and feedback on what that vision is and how it's shaped. Many decisions about land use, zoning, and other planning projects are based off the comprehensive plan - it's foundational to the long-term goals and vision of a community.

- **Sustainability Plan:** A plan that addresses the 3 E's of sustainability: Environment, Economics, and Social Equity of a community; these elements can be integrated into a comprehensive plan and doesn't need to be a standalone document necessarily.
- **Climate Action Plan:** Also known as a "mitigation plan," outlines greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, measures, and methods of implementation.