

## GREEN Committee of Clifton Park

Minutes from June 23, 2025

GREEN Committee Members Present: Gerald Danielski, Diane Betzwieser, Joanne Coons, Cathy Fruhauf, Nancy Tudor, Anne Orgren

Board Member: Anthony Morelli

Guest: James Harding

Nancy Tudor called the meeting to order at 7:00.

James Harding asked when he could officially be on the GREEN Committee. Nancy said when all the committees submit their members to the Town Board in January of each year, they would officially put him on the list.

### Topics of Discussion

#### 1. Climate Smart Community Bronze Certification Update (Nancy and Joanne)

a. Press release on Town Website and Facebook, Anthony Morrelli said the 2 signs were put up at exit 8 and 10. If anyone could suggest a more visible location, please let him know. He will also look into it.

b. Grants- Joanne attended the CSC grant funding webinar on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Nancy and Jen Viggiani will be attending on July 14<sup>th</sup>. The CSC grant funding is \$22 million. A separate subcommittee will be formed to review grant suggestions for the Town.

This is a reimbursement program so there is a gap between projects delivered and paid for. There is a 50% matching funds requirement which can be budgeted. Match can be volunteer hours, land value match when directly related to the project. (need current appraisal, copy of deed and GIS map with tax #.), and other options are available.

Eligible Expenses:

Personal cost (must include time logs), volunteer time, contractual services,

Municipal rates (either FEMA or DOT) supplies/material, land acquisition.

Projects covered: Alternative energy such as PV, heat pumps, (no fossil fuels) Flood risk management.

Some projects include:

- Cooling Center- could be a splash pad which would be fun and cooling, she went to Halfmoon Town Splash Pool with grand kids and said it was great way to cool down, provide recreation and a community event. James said he heard that Y might be putting one in. Joanne is going to try to find out the cost as well as Cathy since she lives in Halfmoon.
- Permanent Shade structure - this could help keep playground equipment cooler and more useful. The structure could be permanent, and the shade cloth could come down in winter to avoid snow load.
- Comprehensive management of trees: how many, where they are, monthly care and maintenance, long term plan and execution

- Eliminating harmful refrigerants with new non-toxic refrigerant with loop of ice rink, town hall and building and ground garages and fueling it with solar cells on top of flat roofed buildings.

Mapping of trails including new one along Grooms Road near the church parking lot.

2. Food scraps Composting Update (Nancy) - Currently about 35 Clifton Park Transfer Station members are using it. If someone signs up, they must take a course on what may be put in such as no meat or dairy products and no plastic bags. Originally the pilot was for 40 families. Whenever there is an update Nancy sends an email to all users. Because of the construction at the transfer station Daniel Clemens requested that we don't want to go larger until the Fall when all the construction will be completed. Currently about 40 gallons of material are distributed from the first batch of material. Nancy said she would keep us up to date at what was happening. Joanne suggested larger containers. Anthony Morelli said he also would like it to expand in the fall.

3. Drop and Swap at Amity Church - Diana Leis Delker was not at the meeting. Joanne said she would contact her about this. It was suggested that it would be a houseware type swap.

4. Book Club (Kelsey) – Clifton Park Halfmoon Library picks books for 2026 in November 2025. It was suggested that Kelsey go to a meeting at the Clifton Park Halfmoon Library in November to recommend a book for one of the library's book clubs. There is also a meeting for when they will be discussing their next book selection for Two Towns One Book for next year.

5. Repair Cafe Update (Cathy) - Approximately 57 items were brought in, 46 fixed, 3 not fixable, 6 were given advice on what was needed to fix them, a couple of unknowns. 16 coaches, approximately 22 total workers. In the questionnaire 26 people said it was the first time at a repair cafe. It was suggested the town make up signs that say Repair Cafe Today from 10-2 at Clifton Park Senior Center. They could be put out on the day of the event and could be used for each Repair Cafe if there was no date on them. Anthony said he could get that done. Not sure how many needed. Next date is October 18th. Cathy said on the questionnaire that she collected 22 emails for people who wanted to know when the next one would be.

6. New Topic - General Meeting of heads of all groups in town that do environmental things. Joanne said a few years ago they had a meeting like that. Suggested groups would be representatives of the Park District Committees, Green Committee, Tree Committee, Parks and Recreation, Building and Grounds, Open Space, Friends of Open Space, Libraries, SEEC (Shenendehowa Environmental Committee), High School East and West Environmental Groups and Recycling Groups, Garden Groups, Shenendehowa Senior Citizens, Master Gardeners, 4 H, Trail Committees and various other groups. Anthony and Joanne said they would look into it.

7. New Topic- Plastic Free July (Cathy) - Cathy said she puts on Facebook and other website a daily suggestion for this. It was suggested she give the information to Nancy, and she would pass it on to Norah for the town to distribute weekly.

CEC Town Hall Audit:

Meeting this Friday at 9:30 concerning what to do to address problems that were reported with the HVAC system.

Adjourned 8:18

<b>GREEN Committee Events</b>	<b>2025 Dates</b>
Clothing Swap	On-hold
Repair Café	March 15 <sup>th</sup> , May 17 <sup>th</sup> October 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
Winterfest	February 1, 2025
Backyard Composting Class – CCE	April 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Arbor Day/Earth Day Celebration	April 26, 2025
Science night	April 25, 2025
Town Weekend Giveaway Event	May 2-4, 2025
Solar Farm Tour	May 1st
Pumpkin Smashing	November 8-9, 2025

Open Items:

- 1) Drop and swap at Amity Church – determine if this is something we want to pursue. (Joanne and Diana)
- 2) Evaluate Book club. (Kelsey)
- 3) Group meeting among all the Town Env. Groups (Joanne and Anthony)
- 4) CSC grants - A separate subcommittee will be formed to review grant suggestions for the Town. (Nancy and Joanne)
- 5) Plastic Free July – send daily or weekly suggestions to Norah via Nancy. (Cathy)