

GREEN Committee of Clifton Park Minutes from January 27, 2025

GREEN Committee Members Present: Gerald Danielski, Diane Betzwieser, Marc Laymon, Tom Piwinski, Joanne Coons, Cathy Fruhauf, Kelsey Sousa
Town Board Members: Anthony Morelli, Zabed Manir

Joanne Coons called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

1. How to integrate student participation (Joanne)

Joanne, Anne Orgren and Lily Hefferman attended the SEED, Shenendehowa Environmental meeting. The school has a hydroponics tower that will produce enough lettuce for the cafeteria. They have a High School East and West Environmental Clubs and a Garden committee. They are tapping 5 maple trees and hope to make maple syrup from them. At a recent senior Capstone event, Joanne provided a list of students sign up opportunities to see what they might volunteer for. It included volunteer for trail project, full moon hikes, trail clean-up days, backyard composting, Earth Day Celebration, Arbor Day Celebration, Community Solar Farm tour, Giveaway weekend, Bike Day, Repair Cafe, Trees of Distinction, Plant a tree for a newborn, Tree Committee Meeting, Green Committee Meeting.

She is emailing the students to get them involved. She also contacted the Honor Societies and other volunteer groups who need volunteer hours.

2. February 1 Sign up for Winterfest inside Robinson Ace Hardware from 11-3.

The theme is that February is Bird Feeding month. One activity is to put peanut butter on pinecones and roll them in bird seed. The hardware store is putting string on the pinecones to hang them and providing parchment paper to carry them home in. It was suggested by the group that they could use newspaper or small old paper bags. They will also be making bird houses from old street signs that Joanne has cut out the pieces for. Adults will be needed to help put them together. Ace hardware is also having barbecue and hot cocoa.

3. April 22nd, 6:30PM, Backyard Composting Class by Cornell Cooperative Extension at the Clifton Park - Halfmoon Library

4. April 26 Earth Day Celebration-organization and planning time is 10-2 at Collins Park
Joanne arranged for overflow parking at the Community Church across the street as well as Town security for people to cross Moe Rd to Collins Park.

The GREEN Committee has old campaign signs that stick in the ground and is planning to paint them white so we can reuse them. We can paint arrows on them to help people find parking for Earth Day. We also can post factoids on them so people can think about their actions.

Kelsey has donated buckets to be used for compost and decorated at the event. Some of the activities include simple hats for children to make and color for Earth Day.

We need 75 to 100 glass jars to put terrariums in with dirt, moss, and plants. We need paper towel tubes or maybe buy some tubes for rain makers. They can be decorated with paper and rice and beans to be sealed inside for the "rain" noise. We also have small round cut wooded circles and put string or yarn in them and have students decorate them as a necklace. Make talking sticks with a piece of a branch, feathers, beads, and yarn. They are used in groups when only one person can speak at a time, the one who has the talking stick. Decorate paper bags. We might have to purchase one with no advertising to put what children make in them. Take ribbons and have students write wishes on them

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and put them on a tree in the park, a wishing tree. Make a bookcase and fill it with books from the library for free. Have a template with an outline of a tree and let the students dip their fingers in paint and put them on the tree as leaves or could use markers. Another idea is to paint rocks. If anyone has more ideas, please let her know.

For your information: This week at Collins Park, Amanda Ford and her walking group made a sleigh kiosk where you can take a sleigh, use it, and return it to the kiosk.

<https://www.news10.com/community/little-free-sled-library-unveiled-in-clifton-park/>

5. May 4th Bike Day- National Ride a Bike Day-collaborate with CPHM Library from 1-3 at the Library

Joanne will lead a 1.25-mile hike. There will be helmets, bike safety and bike repair under Tenaya and Jim Foster of the Library. The Library is a sustainable designated library and they are looking for activities to promote this. It was suggested that you could introduce Velcro, rubber bands or strings to hold pants so that they don't get caught in gears or dirty from chain oil. Another suggestion was to take a bread bag, cut the bottom and put it over the bottom of your pants to prevent oil from getting on your pants.

6. Monthly newsletter and establish a primary email list

Joanne said she gets monthly newsletters from ECOS (Environmental Clearing House of Schenectady) with all kinds of news of their events. Would it be possible to have something like that for the GREEN committee? It was suggested that it could be monthly or quarterly, but someone would need to do it. The Town of Clifton Park Board members present said it could be done through the Town's website. QR codes were also suggested. It was decided to table it for the next meeting since no one volunteered to do it. It was suggested get Amanda Ford, who does our event brochures to do some type of prototype that would need to go through the Town Board publicity and website person, Nora.

7. Bandana/apron/vest

Joanne brought in a green printed bandana that she got at Joann's fabric store. Everyone agreed it would be a good way to designate people on the Green Committee. It could be used around the neck or like a head band. It was cotton and 22 by 22 inches and cost 2.49. We would probably need 20. It was suggested they be put in a box and used at events, and they returned to the box after the event. Diane B brought green felt vests and cute hats that could also be worn but volunteers at events.

8. Textiles Diana was not in attendance, so we tabled it for the next meeting

9. Health and Science Activity Night April 25th at Shenendehowa High School East from 6-8 pm

It is free to the public. It was suggested we have a table where we showcase all our activities of both the Green and Tree committees. Also get people to sign up for certain activities like the list Joanne brought to the SEED committee. Also promote the next days Arbor/Earth Day celebration at Collins Park. We need people to volunteer to staff the table.

10. Repair Cafe

a. Scheduled May 17th at Senior Center but possibly change the location if the Clifton Park Center (Mall) works out better (Advance in Parks and Rec Booklet)

b. Schedule a Repair Cafe at Clifton Park Center date March 15th from 10-2

c. Working on suggested dates for the first Saturdays in April and October (Cathy)

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d. Update and discuss how to improve attendance. Have sign up at Winterfest event and the Clifton Park Center will do free advertising with posters around Mall and their promotional and Facebook page.

e. Put up posters using old political signs advertising the repair cafe.

It was suggested everyone on the committee get people they know to be coaches and let Cathy know who they are and what they can fix.

Categories: Textiles (hand and machine sewers, zippers, leather, upholstery etc.), wood workers and furniture, mechanical, electrical especially lamps, bike, knife sharpeners, computer (software and hardware), clocks, jewelry.

Cathy suggested she would also like to go back to the library.

11. Solar Farm Tour- schedule a tour of the Hubbs Road Solar farm for the first week in May.

Adjourned at 8:20

Minutes taken by Diane Betzwieser

| GREEN Committee Ongoing | Annual Events | 2025 Dates |
|--|----------------------|--|
| Winterfest-Robinson ACE Hardware | | February 1, 11-3 |
| Education event - Home Compost Training | | April-May 2025 |
| Clothing Swap | | Spring |
| Repair Café | | March 15, 2025; May 17 th Nov. ? 2025 |
| Winterfest | | February 1, 2025 |
| Backyard Composting Class – Cornell Cooperative Ext. | | April 22 nd |
| Arbor Day/Earth Day Celebration | | April 26, 2025 |
| Science night | | April 25, 2025 |
| Town Weekend Giveaway Event | | May 2-4, 2025 |
| Pumpkin Smashing | | November 9, 2025 |
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