

GREEN Committee of Clifton Park

Minutes – January 26, 2026

Members Present: Gerald Danielski, Diane Betzwieser, Marc Laymon,
Joanne Coons, Tom Piwinski, Anne Orgren

Town Board Liaison: Zabed Manir

Diane Betzwieser called the meeting to order at **7:00 PM**.

1. January–March 2026 GREEN Events

a. Lawn Care Program – January 6, 2026

Saratoga County Cornell Cooperative Extension presented a lawn care program at the Clifton Park–Halfmoon Library. Due to illness, the presenter joined via Zoom, which still allowed for full interaction and questions.

- Attendance was approximately **25 people**
- Session was **recorded**, and handouts were distributed via email
- Key points included:
 - Keeping lawn mower blades sharp
 - Cutting grass to about **3 inches high** to reduce plant stress and insect issues
 - Using **native plants and perennials** as an alternative to traditional lawns for easier maintenance

The library is posting the recording on its website. The committee would also like to post it on the GREEN Committee website.

Upcoming Event:

Joanne Coons will give a **Solar Energy presentation** at the library on **Wednesday, April 22 at 2:00 PM**.

b. Giveaway Weekend 2026

This will be the **4th Giveaway Weekend**. The Town has not yet set the Bulk Waste Drop-off date. Giveaway Weekend will be scheduled **before** the bulk waste cleanup. Zabed Manir will notify the committee once the date is confirmed.

c. Winterfest 2026 – February 7, 2026

The GREEN Committee will assist at **Robinson Ace Hardware from 11 AM – 3 PM**.

Planned activities include:

- Making bird feeders (pinecones, peanut butter, and bird seed)
- Birdhouses
- Composting information posters

It was suggested to provide a **sign-up opportunity** for new Clifton Park Transfer Station permit holders to use the new, larger compost bins. Jerry will bring a **bucket for demonstration purposes**.

d. Repair Café – March 7, 2026

Cathy will send participation data to Diane Betzwieser, who will create a spreadsheet to build a comprehensive email list from the collected information.

2. Town Environmental Committees Update

Clifton Park Environmental subcommittees met on **January 22** to discuss plans for 2026.

Nancy Tudor reported that the group discussed **updating the Town Comprehensive Plan**. The response was positive, and members expressed interest in working collaboratively. The tentative plan is to use **2026 as a planning year** and complete the update the following year.

Zabed Manir stated that the Town will hire a consultant to help develop the plan with input from the various committees.

3. Climate Action Plan (CAP)

Also known as a **mitigation plan**, the CAP outlines greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals, strategies, and implementation methods.

The greenhouse gas inventory and Climate Action Plan will be developed for the Town by the **Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC)**.

Contact: Haley Balcanoff, Sustainability Planner
Anne Orgren confirmed that Haley will lead this effort.

4. Food Scraps Composting – Transfer Station Update

Schenectady Cornell Cooperative Extension provided:

- Three **3-gallon food scrap containers**
- A **new shed** at the Transfer Station

The goal is to increase the number of participating families this spring. Expanding the food scraps composting program is a key objective for **2026**.

Other Items

5. Battery Recycling Inquiry

Joanne Coons asked Daniel Clemens whether single-use batteries (AA,

AAA, etc.) could be collected at the Transfer Station and included with hazardous waste recycling. He will follow up.

Currently, **Staples recycles these batteries for free.**

6. Science Night Tables

Diane Betzwieser will coordinate with Jean Lorch to obtain **4–6 tables** for Science Night at Shenendehowa for both the GREEN and Tree Committees.

7. Energy Subcommittee Idea

Tom Piwinski suggested forming an **energy subcommittee** to explore cost savings during peak grid demand times. Diane asked Tom to prepare a summary including:

- Information on **Green Mountain Power (VT)** programs
- Distributed energy resources in homes and on the grid
- Energy storage system strategies
- Any additional related ideas

Tom will present this information at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM

2026 Planned Community Events and Education

GREEN Committee Events	2026 Dates
Lawn Care	January 6, 2026
Winterfest	February 7, 2026
Repair Café	March 7, 2026
Earth Day Celebration / Science night	April 24, 2026
Town Weekend Giveaway Event	TBD, prior to annual Bulk Waste Drop-off
Repair Café	May 9, 2026, October 2026
Pumpkin Smashing	November 7-8, 2026