



Clifton Park Tree Committee Meeting

December 16, 2025

Minutes of Meeting

Present: Jerry Danielski, Diana Leis Delker, chair; Stu Feuerstein, Steve Morse, Anne Orgren, & Chris Schmitt.

Absent: Joanne Coons, Jim Harding, Marc Laymon, Danne Parker, Zabed Manir, Anthony Morelli.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

The purpose of tonight's meeting was to review the Zoom meeting with Lori Brockelbank from Davey Resource Group, and to support actions regarding the Tree Inventory & Community Forest Management Plan that were discussed.

The Tree Committee:

- Recommends that Steve Morse (member) be a participant in the "Day 1" on-the-ground Tree Inventory meeting in May 2026. Steve was a certified ISA arborist and has experience in writing forest management plans which puts him in a unique position as a valuable resource for the town on this project.
- Strongly endorses assigning risk ratings for trees: high, medium, or low, as an important means of managing the community forest. (These general ratings would not include other details which an arborist would typically collect: (a) the hazard's potential target—structure or people; and (b) how big the failure could be—e.g., large limb.)
- Commits to writing the team's biographical story for the introduction to the Community Forest Management Plan to include stories, photos, and key accomplishments during the committee's four-year existence. This will be completed by the end of February 2026.

- Recommends that the town's Project Manager inform the 14 Park District chairpersons about the upcoming Tree Inventory to commence in May 2026 and to involve them when/if appropriate.
- Strongly supports the purchase of TreeKeeper or similar software to track sites where trees are planted or removed and also other data on tree conditions. While the Planning
- Department has GIS software; it would be challenging to maintain the data on that platform. The committee believes specialized software would also enable the exchange of information between town departments. Further, the maintenance of tree data is required by NYSDEC for future grant awards.
- Suggests identifying locations on a map (as requested by Lori B.) that we want inventoried first as a means of citing 500 potential locations where trees could be planted or that would enhance the tree canopy. We think it is important to include all stakeholders (Open Spaces, Environmental Conservation, etc.) in this process which should be completed no later than April 2026.
- Recommends that a Tree Planting budget be developed for the town to cover the cost of replacing trees that are removed as well as purchasing, planting, and maintaining additional trees to be planted.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.