



Clifton Park Tree Committee

Minutes of Meeting

January 20, 2026

Present: Diana Leis Delker, chair; Stu Feuerstein, Jim Harding, Marc Laymon, Steve Morse, Anne Orgren, & Danne Parker.

Absent: Joanne Coons, Jerry Danielski, Zabed Manir, Town Board Liaison; & Chris Schmitt.

The meeting was called to order by the chairperson at 7:05 p.m.

New Business

Two agenda items were on the schedule for discussion:

Volunteer Education & Engagement Program. The Committee is developing a proposal to submit to the Capital Region Partnership for Invasive Species Management (PRISM) for their Volunteer Education & Engagement Program (VEEP). After consulting with Addison Kubik from PRISM, the team decided to focus on Asiatic (oriental) bittersweet for the proposed project. The missing piece of the proposal is deciding on a municipal location to carry out the volunteer project. After discussion, it was decided to get input from the Stewardship Subcommittee of the Open Spaces Committee. Danne will reach out to the head of the stewardship team; she and Jim will then visit recommended sites. The goal is to decide on the location in the next two weeks.

Arbor Day Planning. The chairperson presented a timeline to be used for planning the annual April celebration. Members were asked to submit tasks to be added.

First, the seedling order was processed by Regan in Buildings & Grounds during the first week of Saratoga Nursery's sale. The order was for one pack each (25 seedlings) of: sugar maple, black oak, American sweetgum, and serviceberry. The seedlings must be picked up on Friday, April 24, 2026.

Also, the Tree Committee now has its own account on Sign-up Genius, but Anne's will be used again this year, because the QR Code for that account was sent to Parks & Recreation for their bulletin. Steve will be monitoring purchases and communicating with residents regarding picking up seedlings. Each resident will be given a "25 Million" tree card with the seedling, so he

or she can register it on the New York State website. Finally, emails will be sent to residents periodically with tips for caring for the small trees. (We need to decide if planting instructions will also be handed out.)

The team discussed the importance of being visible as members of the Tree Committee on Arbor Day. The bandanas made by Joanne were given to everyone, but members thought we should also wear something else. After considering hats, t-shirts, and other things, the most affordable option was lanyards. Everyone agreed on this choice, including typing our first names on the tag. Diana will take responsibility for this task.

For the 2025 Arbor Day event, Joanne organized numerous kids' activities. Many of the activities can be used again, including tree painting, bird houses, coloring, and others. We will need one or two committee members to pull together the materials and handle the set up at Veterans Park.

As far as which tree to select for the ceremonial planting, pine trees and oaks were brought up for consideration. (The American elm is considered the "Liberty Tree," the famous elm tree in Boston that was destroyed by Loyalists.) Steve later suggested an oak tree, known for its strength and long life.

The Committee started to discuss organizations/groups to involve in Arbor Day festivities. Shen Rotary was mentioned, and we will continue to discuss this at February's meeting. Also, members are very interested in continuing to involve the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts.

There also may be an opportunity to involve Shenendehowa Schools in Arbor Day, which would help them to renew their Tree Campus K-12 application for 2026. Anne will explore the idea through the SEED (Shenendehowa Environmental Education & Development) Committee.

Finally, Shen conducted an inventory of their campus trees in 1988. Since then, trees have been planted/removed, and they are looking to update the inventory. They may be asking for help from the Tree Committee for this project in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.