



## Clifton Park Tree Committee

### Minutes of Meeting

March 23, 2026

**Present:** Joanne Coons, Diana Leis Delker, chair; Stu Feuerstein, Steve Morse, Anne Orgren, Chris Schmitt. **Special Guests:** Councilwoman Nancy Bellamy & Frank Berlin

**Absent:** Jerry Danielski, Jim Harding, Marc Laymon & Danne Parker, & Councilman Zabed Manir, Town Board Liaison

The meeting was called to order by the chairperson at 6:02 p.m.

The minutes from January were approved as written.

#### **Announcements:**

- Diana ordered 750 “25 Million Trees” cards to distribute around town over the next few years. The cards should be delivered to town hall.
- David Miller and Ray Seymour approved the planting of a white oak sapling for Arbor Day at Veterans Memorial Park. Ray also identified a planting location there. Dan Clemens has sourced a tree for us for \$299.
- Chris and Diana ordered plaques for the two winning Trees of Distinction. Unfortunately, the tariffs made the plaques much more expensive this year. Members agreed that, due to the expense, we must find markers that are much less costly next year.
- The Tree City packet with two “Year 5” markers for the Tree City USA street signs at Exits 8 & 9 arrived. Dan Clemens will post the markers soon. The packet also contained several adhesive stickers with “Tree City USA” on them. We need to find places to post the stickers.
- Chris and Diana will be representing the Clifton Park Tree Committee at the DEC recognition luncheon in Kingston on March 26.
- Green lanyards with plastic badge holders have come in; members will get one for Arbor Day.
- Diana asked that the May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting be an “advisers’ meeting”; Elisa will be attending to discuss publicity strategies, and Lauri will attend to respond to issues related to master gardening and master naturalist topics. Questions will be solicited in advance of the meeting.
- Finally, Resolution #86 of 2026 in support of the Volunteer Education & Engagement Program (VEEP) passed unanimously at the recent Town Board meeting. The resolution, proposal, and map were sent to Addison Kubik at PRISM. Danne will lead the project.

Frank Berlin asked for some time to discuss the importance of doing whatever we can to support our natural habitats. Given the request from Councilwoman Reid to help monarch butterflies, Frank passed

around photos of beautiful butterflies. He urged the Tree Committee to support the monarch pledge in whatever ways that we can.

### **Old Business**

#### **Arbor Day Celebration – Saturday, April 25, 2026**

Diana passed around a tentative Arbor Day schedule for review and approval. The schedule will be sent to Tree of Distinction winners and the honorable mention as well as other participants and the town board. Certificates are being prepared and will be taken to town hall for Supervisor Barrett and Councilman Manir to sign.

Steve is assisting Anne with the seedling orders this year. They discussed some glitches, because people have not been reading the instructions that they are limited to one order. Consequently, residents have been requesting as many as six seedlings. It has been extremely time-consuming for Anne & Steve to sort this out. Also, while Anne has been using Sign-up Genius for seedling orders every year, she is recommending setting up a new online process next year. She will share details in the future.

Regarding the seedlings, we are slightly “over-subscribing” orders, because not all seedlings are picked up each year. This is a perennial problem, and the team discussed the possibility of planting leftover seedlings in small pots temporarily and then giving them away after the event. Specifics are still being ironed out.

Joanne displayed all of the kids activities that she will have for Science Night and Arbor Day. Also, Anne said that Lily (former student member of the committee) had developed some activities for Boy Scouts to earn badges. Anne will bring copies for kids who are interested.

In other old business, further discussion of the VEEP initiative with PRISM is on hold, because Danne was unable to attend the meeting. She will be selecting the date, recruiting volunteers, and organizing the event.

### **New Business**

With respect to the Mayors’ Butterfly Pledge that Councilwoman Reid is seeking support for, Stu indicated that he would continue to try to plant a butterfly garden at the George C. Miller park that he oversees. Diana said the committee would support his efforts in whatever way we can.

Also, Councilwoman Reid asked the Tree Committee for suggestions for a Monarch Butterfly Day in the fall. After discussion, Joanne suggested Indigenous People’s Day in October. The members concurred, and that recommendation will be sent to Ms. Reid.

Diana asked for input from the committee regarding setting up a link from our town web page to the tree planting links recommended by the Urban Forestry Council. A few members mentioned that the links might be difficult for people to find. The suggestion will be brought up to Elisa at the May advisers’ meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.