

GREEN Committee of Clifton Park

Minutes – April 27, 2026

Members Present: Nancy Tudor, Diane Betzwieser, Diana Leis Delker, Anne Orgren, Jerry Danielski, Tom Piwinski, Mark Laymon, James Harding, Anne Orgren, Gurinda Garcha, Cathy Fruhauf

Town Board Liaison: Nancy Bellamy, Zabed Manir

Visitor: Kathy Morse

Nancy Tudor called the meeting to order at **7:05 PM**.

1. Giveaway Weekend 2026 – April 17-19, 2026, 4th Giveaway Weekend. Success with advertising and the mapping tool which had over 100 map entries and 5000 hits prior to shutting down on Friday night. After that Nancy was able to provide a readable map. People attending the Craft Give and Take at the Clifton Park Library who brought in different items that were not accepted were encouraged to put them out for this event.

2. Solar Energy presentation at the library on Wednesday, April 22 at 2:00 PM. Joanne Coons did an informative presentation on all aspects of solar energy from putting in solar panels to registering for benefits related to solar energy from different energy companies. She fielded a number of questions related to Solar Energy. For more information you can contact Alanah Cohen-Tigor the Energy Advisor for Saratoga, Washington, and Warren Counties at alanah@cleanenergycapitalregion.org or call 519-479-2700. You can find them online at <https://www.cleanenergycapitalregion.org>. Also, you go to NY Sun website. She discussed the pros and cons of on roof versus ground mount solar panels. She included incentives currently that will encourage people to use solar. Tenaya at the library asked if we could offer the Solar program again this summer.

3. Arbor Day Celebration by the Tree committee on April 25th at Veterans Park from 10-1. Diana Leis Delker, head of the tree committee, said it went very well. A presentation by John Scherer about the history of the area, especially during the Revolutionary War, was a highlight of the celebration. Joanne Coons provided doughnuts. Anne Orgren worked with the Girl Scouts to bag and distribute trees that were pre-ordered. The Girl Scouts also did a number of other activities with the attendees. Cathy Fruhauf suggested when planting trees do not put the mulch up to the bark, she handed out pamphlets on how to plant trees.

4.CSC Climate Action Plan – Nancy Tudor attended The CSCTF meeting on 3/17/26 and decided we could focus the Green House Gas Inventory/CAP for the Town Government. Next step is to work on a Town Board resolution for the town to work with the Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC). Nancy will let us know what happens at the next meeting.

5.Science Night - Diana Leis Delker manned both the Green Committee and Tree Committee tables. She had a trifold of the Tree committee activities. She helped the student volunteers to pass out booklets with cross word puzzles, mazes, and other activities on the environment. There were wheels that the attendees were given to identify trees by their leaves. Another popular activity was to make crowns for earth day. The Green Committee sign was displayed as well as a number of informative brochures.

6. Repair Cafe – Cathy Fruhauf said she was working with the repair coaches to pick a date in July. As soon as she gets some replies from them, she will let us know the date. Zabed encouraged Cathy to try to get the July date fixed sooner so it could be advertised at the Town and to get dates for the remainder of the year.

7. Craft Give and Take - Crafters Supplies Give and Take 2026 at the Clifton Park Halfmoon Library. On April 16 and 17 people brought in unwanted crafts and materials to make crafts such as yarn, cloth etc. and April 18 and 19 people can browse what was brought in and give a donation as to what they thought would be worth to them. It was a great success. A large number of people attended both bringing in items and picking up items. Skeins of wool and large amounts of material were brought in. Other items were kits of all kinds, books, and magazines on all types of crafts. The debriefing meeting will be next week. Diane can report more after that.

8. Transfer Station Food Scraps Composting - Nancy Tudor said she is working to get more people in the program since some have moved, and some are composting at their homes. She will give us an update at the next meeting. May 19th will be a presentation at Pitney Meadows Community Farm and Sustainable Saratoga on composting. Kathy Morse said she has composted for years. Bokashi is a method of fermenting food waste, not composting it in the traditional sense. Instead of relying on oxygen and decomposition (like a compost heap), Bokashi uses beneficial microbes to break down food in an anaerobic (no oxygen) environment. She will talk more about it at our next meeting.

9. Lawn to Garden Sustainable Lawn Care - Diana Leis Delker said that she would like to see more people planting plants other than grass since that often requires pesticides to keep it green. Butterflies can use more plants to feed on. Cathy Fruhauf suggested planting a variety of plants for the pollinators. The Clifton Park Halfmoon Library has

seed packets for free as well as the Clifton Park Senior Center. Link to the Wildr's "Less Lawn More Life" challenge: <https://www.lesslawnmorelife.com/?ref=wildones>. Cornell Cooperative Extension Lawncare Guidance



Repetitive_Overseed
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lawns mowing and
maintance.pdf

10. Plastic Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act Lobby Day May 11th with Beyond Plastics - Diana Leis Delker encouraged people to go down to Albany to lobby for this act.

11. CR -Prism (Capital Region Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management and the Tree Committee Event. - Diana Leis Delker said there will be an Invasive Oriental Bittersweet hands-on workshop at Veterans Memorial Park Pavilion 697 MacElroy Road on May 16, 2026.



VEEP Bittersweet
workshop flyer.pdf

12. Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library National Ride-A-Bike Day
Sunday, May 03: 1:00pm - 4:00pm, Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library

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
<u>Solar Energy presentation at the library</u>	April 22 at 2:00
Earth Day Celebration / Science night	April 24, 2026
Town Weekend Giveaway Event	4/17 – 4/19/26
Repair Café	TBD
Repair Café	October 2026
Pumpkin Smashing	November 7-8, 2026

Adjourned 8:10

Next Meeting: May 18, 2026

Below are add-ons from our meeting:

1. FYI – this is a [recording](#) of the NYLCV Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS): [BESS Banter: BESS 101](#) . The informational webinar will answer the question: **what is battery storage, and why do we need it?**



Town of Clifton Park
Public Hearing on a Solar Moratorium

Upcoming Public Hearing

Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2026
Time: 7 PM
Location: Wood Room, Town Hall Building

The Clifton Park Town Board will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 7 PM in the Wood Memorial Meeting Room in the Town Hall Office Building, located at One Town Hall Plaza to consider a moratorium on new Solar projects. The purpose of this hearing is obtain public comments on a temporary pause on approving or constructing new solar projects so the Town can consider updating zoning laws, addressing land-use conflicts, or evaluating the impacts that additional solar projects can have on the Town's land use policies.



Your Voice Matters! Please attend this meeting to share your views & learn more!!!



Recycle balloons and keep them out of the environment in the front foyer of Town Hall.

Reducing Plastic in Our Lives

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has confirmed that all humans, regardless of age, have microplastics in their bodies. The chemicals from these substances are negatively

impacting our health. Reducing our exposure — especially through items that touch our food — is a practical step we can take. Below are suggestions for ways to lessen microplastics in our lives.

Here are 10 easy, practical ways to reduce plastic use in your kitchen - all doable without major lifestyle changes:

- **Avoid heating or reheating food in plastic containers** - transfer food to glass or ceramic before microwaving.
- **Toss the plastic cutting boards!** Move to ceramic, bamboo, rubber, or wood options.
- **Throw away your old, scratched Tupperware and Rubbermaid plastic containers** – switch to glass or stainless steel for long-term use.
- **Choose non-plastic kitchen tools** - opt for wood, metal, glass, bamboo, or silicone alternatives that will reduce plastic contact with food.
- **Switch to reusable food storage options** - use glass containers, stainless-steel tins, or silicone bags instead of disposable plastics.
- **Swap plastic wrap with reusable covers like** beeswax wraps, silicone lids, or simply cover bowls with a plate.
- **Drink from a reusable metal bottle** - avoid buying single-use plastic water/soda bottles.
- **Pick loose fruits and vegetables** instead of pre-wrapped options.
- **Bring your mug** for coffee or tea - many coffee shops welcome them.
- **Wrap sandwiches in wax paper or foil** instead of plastic bags.