

GREEN Committee of Clifton Park

Minutes from May 18, 2026

GREEN Committee Members Present: Gerald Danielski, Diane Betzwieser, Joanne Coons, Diana Leis Delker, James Harding, Gurinder Garcha, Cathy Fruhauf

Board Members: Zabed Manir, Nancy Bellamy

Joanne Coons called the meeting to order at 7PM

Old Business

1. Give away weekend a good turnout with a number of things recycled.
2. Solar presentation Joanne will present again in July.
3. Arbor day John Scherer talked about loyalists and the history of the area. Two plaques were given away for trees of distinction.
4. On Wednesday May 20th there will be a motorcade on route 9 at 10:30 near Snyder's restaurant on route 9 and we will go to Saratoga Springs. Forty-four soldiers from the Revolutionary War, identified by uniform buttons from the 1st Pennsylvania Battalion, were officially laid to rest on May 22, 2026. Their remains were discovered during a 2019 construction dig in Lake George, New York. They were buried at the New Memorial Plaza at [Lake George Battlefield Park](#). Nancy Bellamy is part of a group that worked on this. We were encouraged to go.

1. Climate Smart Community Action Plan

Joanne asked for people to help collect data on the electrical usage and gas usage of the 5 main buildings that the town owns. Gerald Danielski, Diana Leis Delker and Diane Betzwieser said they would help. Joanne would train anyone to work on it. It would be recorded using the Environmental Protection Agency Portfolio Manager.

Joanne suggested that people sign up for Community Solar which could reduce their electric bill by 10% and if you have low income, it could be as much as 20%. You would have to sign up and make sure when the account would be activated since sometimes large companies or groups such as schools take all the solar power.

2. Repair Cafe

Cathy Fruhauf said it was all set to have it at the Clifton Park Senior Center on July 11. She will work with Nancy to change the flier since she is not sure if she can get someone to repair or tune up bicycles. We all said we should get the fliers set and get them distributed. Maybe have a list for everyone to sign up to put them up in different places. Cathy is working on getting fixers and people to help out with registration.

No date was set for the fall repair cafe.

3. Tree Committee Event - Invasive Oriental Bittersweet hands-on workshop

Diana Leis Delker reported that 24 people were at Veterans Park pavilion. Danne Parker organized the event for the tree committee. Addison Kubik from Prism (The *Capital Region Partnership for Invasive Species Management* (CR-PRISM) is a collaborative organization created to address the threat of *invasive species*. They were shown how to eradicate Oriental Bittersweet and Honeysuckle. They went and worked on these two plants with loppers. They were not able to work on the Buckthorn since you needed saws for that. All participants received it well.

4. July 4th parade - Joanne would like to organize a group to be in the July 4th parade. She has a red and white Tesla, and a friend has a blue one. It was suggested we hand out coloring books Joanne has on electrical usage for children. Another suggestion was pins. She also suggested she could boom some music from her car. She will organize it and get back to the people who want to volunteer.

5. Bokashi Workshop - On May 19th Kathy Morse will be putting on a demonstration at Pitney Meadows farm on the Bokashi method of composting.

6. Dates for Park and Recreation booklet.

- Pumpkin Smashing November 7-8 at Bowman's Orchard.

- Winterfest at Ace Hardware is 1st Saturday in February.

7. Plastic Detox - It was suggested we work with the Clifton Park Halfmoon Library on a Netflix movie on Plastic Detox. The movie is about 2 hours long. It was thought we could cut and paste the more important parts to shorten it. The Friends of the Library are into sustainability and might be willing to host it. We could have prizes of 2-3 items for incentive to come to watch it. We would advertise it for all students including home school students. We could have a question and answer after. We could hand out coloring books that Joanne has.

8. Used balloons at Town Hall - The box for balloons used at town hall, the pop and drop box is almost full.

9. Committee reports - At the town board meetings some of the committees report on what they have been doing. At the committee chair meeting it was suggested we review the Town Board and Planning Committee meeting minutes and do a formal report. Zabeed and Nancy Bellamy suggested this.

10. Mission Statement - James Harding would like us to comment on the Mission statement that started with Gurinder Garcha. Jim's mission statement is below:

The Clifton Park GREEN Committee seeks to promote conservation and sustainability practices through education and community participatory events that highlight these ideals.

It was decided we would discuss it at the next meeting since it was getting late.

Adjourned at 8:15.