



Clifton Park Tree Committee

Minutes of Meeting

April 27, 2026

Present: Jerry Danielski, Diana Leis Delker, chair; Stu Feuerstein, Jim Harding, Marc Laymon, Steve Morse, Danne Parker, Chris Schmitt & Councilman Zabed Manir, Town Board liaison. **Special Guests:** Councilwoman Nancy Bellamy. **Other Guests:** Robert Anderson and Joshua Anderson (Boy Scout Troop 246, Elks Lodge)

Absent: Joanne Coons and Anne Orgren

The meeting was called to order by the chairperson at 6:03 p.m.

The minutes from March were approved as written.

A special welcome was extended to our two guests, Robert and Joshua Anderson. Joshua shared that one of the requirements to be an Eagle Scout was to attend a town meeting, and he chose ours.

Committee Business:

CR-PRISM VEEP Project. Danne passed out copies of the “bittersweet” flyer for the Volunteer Education & Engagement Program scheduled for May 16, 2026 from 9 a.m. to noon at Veterans Memorial Park in Ballston Lake. Danne met with Jen V./Open Spaces and Megan B./Parks & Recreation and got support and assistance from them to publicize the event and then register interested residents. Addison Kubik, who will be CR-PRISM trainer for the program, will focus on four learning goals: 1. Learn how to identify bittersweet; 2. Understand its negative effects; 3. Learn proper removal and disposal techniques; 4. Gain hands-on experience in removing bittersweet.

Danne said that Addison will bring tools for participants (they will have to sign a waiver to use them), but people may also bring their own tools. Addison has not capped attendance and will find a way to involve anyone who is interested in learning about bittersweet removal.

Beyond posting flyers and online publicity through the town, a press release has been written and will be sent out by the town.

Arbor Day Celebration Debriefing. Zabed complimented the committee on a successful Arbor Day celebration. He was pleased that Councilwomen Reid and Bellamy were able to attend and liked involving John Scherer, town historian, and the Girl Scouts in the event. He said we should build on the success and have a big event in 2027.

Steve and Anne coordinated the seedling giveaway. While residents seemed happy with the trees, some of the seedlings were quite small. However, this is something that the Saratoga Nursery warns people

about in advance. Growing conditions, including the placement/location of seeds will determine how big they will be when harvested.

The most popular seedling picks were the sugar maple and serviceberry. A few black oak and American sweetgum were not picked up. Steve took the seedlings home to temporarily plant them. He observed that the American sweetgum seedlings left were so small that it might be best to plant them in containers until they are hardier. The committee will work together to find good homes for these trees. The concern is that they must be carefully monitored and watered to heighten their chances of survival.

The doughnuts that Joanne got through Stewarts were a huge hit. We should consider doing that again. In return, Stewarts asked for some photos that could be posted online. Those were sent along with a thank-you note. Finally, a letter of thanks is being sent to Girl Scout Troop #3845 for helping to distribute the seedlings and reading the Arbor Day Proclamation (thanks to Anne for recruiting them).

Senior Center Trees. Diana explained an issue with a stand of trees at the senior center. The center's director contacted town officials to say that more parking spaces were needed as membership has ballooned in the past few years; people are parking on the grass when spaces are filled. Steve and Diana met with the town attorney at the site to explore options—none of which seemed viable other than expanding the lot in the back. Steve presented his assessment which will be put in writing and sent to the committee.

Review of 2026 Objectives. Current-year objectives were reviewed to determine if the committee was on track to meet our goals. Every objective has a lead person, and things seem to be on track. Stu volunteered that he is working on a sign for the George Smith Park: "Preserve Our Trees; Trees Preserve Us."

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.