

Athens Conservation Advisory Council meeting minutes
November 19, 2020

Members present: Bunting, Grilli, Lipsman, Little, Moree, Winslow

Members excused: Lasher

Members absent: Proper

Meeting guests present:

Donald Guest, Forester, DEC

Kelsey West, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Chairman Lipsman convened the meeting at 6:31.

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Agenda review and approval - MOTION Little, second Bunting, PASSED unanimously
3. Approval of minutes of last meeting – The draft minutes were amended to reflect that Mr. Proper was not present. MOTION Bunting, second Winslow, PASSED unanimously as amended.
4. Tree discussion with DEC Forester Donald Guest – There was an approximately 40-minute discussion on the NYS Urban Forestry Council and the ReLEAF program, as well as funding opportunities through the Tree City USA program and DEC. The group discussed CAC's intention to update the tree survey next year, develop a tree management plan, and to act on the list of trees needing attention submitted by former Mayor Pfister.

Ms. Grilli volunteered to work with Dr. Lipsman to pursue Tree City USA designation. Forester Guest agreed to come back to Athens at a non-specified near future date to look at the trees on Mayor Pfister's list to give advice to the CAC on those.

5. Climate Smart Community certification update discussion with Kelsey West – Ms. West distributed copies of a draft "Village of Athens Climate Resilience Vision" for CAC member comment by 11/24 to be sent to her at kjw228@cornell.edu. Dr. Lipsman said he would send an electronic copy out to the members as well. There will follow a subsequent period of public comment and submission to the Village Board for approval at its December 9 meeting.

In addition, Ms. West reminded the group that she is developing an Athens Flood Preparedness Guide. With the Vision statement, Flood Preparedness Guide, and anticipated adoption of the Town/Village Comprehensive Plan update in December, the Village is on track to submit for CSC certification in January. Dr. Lipsman invited members to participate in the joint Town/Village virtual public hearing on the update to be held 12/2.

6. December 17 meeting agenda – the group decided not to meet in December. The next meeting will be January 21, 2021 and may be held virtually depending on COVID circumstances at the time.

7. Council member vacancy – there is one one-year term vacancy on the Council. Ms. Grilli indicated she sent emails to local school contacts to try to get a youth member but has not yet heard back.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39. MOTION Winslow, second Little, PASSED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Joshua Lipsman, MD