

Athens Conservation Advisory Council meeting minutes
May 19, 2022, via ZOOM

Members present: Bunting, Grilli, Lipsman, Moree, Village Trustee Nancy Poylo for Proper, Roth, Winslow

Members excused: Little

Meeting guests present: Stephanie Facchine, NYSDOH

Chairman Lipsman convened the meeting at 6:32pm.

1. Welcome and introductions – deferred.
2. Agenda review and approval – the agenda was approved by assent, with the addition of a discussion of problem trees submitted by DPW Director Proper and brought up by Trustee Poylo attending on his behalf.
3. Approval of minutes of last meeting – the minutes of the meeting of April 21, 2022, were approved by assent.
4. Drinking Water Source Protection project – there was discussion on the draft Vision statement and detailed maps with map data, all of which were prepared by Winslow. A few minor wording changes were made in the Vision statement. All praised the maps and map data for thoroughness and comprehensibility. A motion was made by Dr. Lipsman, SECOND by Ms. Moree to use a buffer distance of 500' for purposes of review. Passed 5-1, with the nay vote stating a buffer distance of 100' seemed more appropriate, as this is the DEC standard.

Trustee Poylo said she would get information on salt use on roads abutting Hollister Lake. Ms. Facchine said she would ask the Operator if there is a water source other than precipitation. At our next meeting, the group will begin to discuss protection strategies.

Ms. Grilli was obliged to leave the meeting at this point.

5. Problem trees – after a report from Trustee Poylo, and review of photos and some on-site visits by members, it was moved by Mr. Roth that the CAC recommend to the Village Board to cut back what was unhealthy on tree #80, the sugar maple in front of 14 S. Franklin, and to completely remove the ash tree #79 in front of 12 S. Franklin that is infested with EAB. SECOND Mr. Bunting, passed unanimously, 5-0.
6. Discussion of draft Tree Law – there was discussion on the importance of CAC members attending the next Village Board meeting to help explain and support the draft Law.
7. Discussion of updated Tree Inventory and Management Program; tree best practices brochure for residents – Dr. Lipsman advised the CAC that Angelo Schembari will be engaged again to conduct the updated street tree inventory and craft a tree management plan. These items will be helpful for applying in the fall for anticipated tree planting and maintenance funding from NYS. The tree management plan should also be helpful for developing a tree planting advice brochure for residents.

Funding for the project is \$8000 from Greenway, \$2000 from the Village, and \$2000 from Friends of Athens. An in-kind contribution of \$4000 will be made by a combination of the volunteer time of Dr. Lipsman as project coordinator, and time spent discussing and guiding the project by the Village Board, the CAC, and the Friends of Athens board. Dr. Lipsman asked CAC members to keep a mental note for tracking purposes of time spent on this work other than in group meetings.

8. Discussion of Arbor Day observance – there will need to be an observance in Athens this year to make the Village eligible for designation for a third year as a Tree City USA city.
9. [Flood Resilience Handbook for Hudson River Public Access Sites](#) – Dr. Lipsman has been trading messages with one of the coordinators of the Hudson River Estuary Program about a volunteer to work with the CAC on a Climate Summary that might overlap with our interest in flood resilience work.
10. Athens municipal Community Solar – Dr. Lipsman advised the group that the Village Board approved Athens participation in this program.
11. Member items – Ms. Moree mentioned she had noticed that a property in the Village between N. Washington and N. Franklin had had many trees removed and that this could have unfavorable implications for terrain and topographic stability because it was on a slope.
12. Agenda for meeting of June 16, 2022 – This meeting is required to be in person and will be at the Firehouse. The agenda will be substantially the same. Unless COVID abates significantly, people will be masked unless they wish to remove masks when speaking, and sit 6' apart.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joshua Lipsman, MD