

Athens Conservation Advisory Council meeting minutes
August 18, 2022
Athens Firehouse

Members present: Bunting (left at 7:15), Grilli, Lipsman, Little, Moree, Winslow (via Zoom)

Members excused: Roth

Members absent: Proper

Meeting guests present: Stephanie Facchine, NYS DOH, with Lindsey Drew, NYS DEC, Angelo Schembari, CGL Arbor Services (via Zoom)

Chairman Lipsman convened the meeting at 6:32pm.

1. Welcome and introductions – participants introduced themselves.
2. Agenda review and approval – the agenda was approved by assent.
3. Approval of minutes of last meeting – the minutes of the meeting of July 21, 2022, were approved by assent.
4. Drinking Water Source Protection project – there was discussion of a site visit to the Water Treatment Plant. There was discussion whether the Village should be planning for significantly increased water supply demand due to population growth and the sense of the discussion was that we should not. There was further discussion of Management Methods, with DOH staff and CAC members agreeing to do additional research prior to our next discussion. It was agreed to skip a month, revisiting this topic in October, to allow more time next month for other topic discussion.
5. Tree Inventory and Management Plan –

Mr. Schembari participated via Zoom. He stated that most of the field data collection was complete and entered into the software. A few gaps would be addressed with a final field visit, hopefully next week. The ETA for the final Inventory and Management Plan is the end of September.

Tree #383 was brought to the attention of the Village Board and the CAC was asked to advise on its removal. There was no clear consensus among the CAC whether the tree could be saved or should be removed. Mr. Schembari said he would try to look closely at it if he is able to return to the Village next week as part of his data gathering. Dr. Lipsman requested he try to do this before the Village Board meeting Wednesday.

Dr. Lipsman brought up a request he received from a resident to arrange at their own expense for vista pruning of a street tree across from their home. The consensus of the CAC discussion was this would not be a good precedent for the Village. Non-Village employed workers would do the work, but the Village would be liable. As well, there is a philosophy that “trees to be preserved shall not be cut” and that (outside of California) no one is legally entitled to a view. In this case, the tree in question is thought to be a tulip poplar, which is a brittle tree and pruning could do damage.

There was discussion about tallying Friends of Athens volunteer hours for grant match purposes. Ms. Little said she would provide these numbers from May to the present.

6. Tree Law – deferred to September
7. Arbor Day observance – several ideas were discussed. Ms. Grilli volunteered to explore this further and propose a specific idea next meeting.
8. Climate Summary – deferred to September
[Flood Resilience Handbook for Hudson River Public Access Sites](#)
9. Member items - none
10. Agenda for meeting of September 15, 2022 – we would plan for discussion on the Climate Summary with Jesenia Laureano of the Hudson River Estuary Program/DEC and Andrea Smallwood, chair of the Athens Waterfront Advisory Committee; an update on the Tree Inventory and Management Plan; and discussion of the Tree Law. Ms. Moree stated she would not be in attendance but possibly might be able to participate via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 8pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joshua Lipsman, MD