

Athens Conservation Advisory Council meeting minutes
October 20, 2022
Athens Firehouse and via Zoom

Members present: Bunting via Zoom, Grilli, Lipsman, Little via Zoom, Moree, Roth, Winslow

Members absent: Sprague

Meeting guests present: Stephanie Facchine, NYS Department of Health, Bureau of Water Supply Protection

Meeting guests present via Zoom: Lindsey Drew and Keith Estes, both with DEC; Angelo Schembari, CGL Arbor Services

Chairman Lipsman convened the meeting at 6:37pm.

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 September 15, 2022, were approved by assent.
4. Drinking Water Source Protection project – the group discussed the field visit to the Water Treatment Plant at Hollister Lake and expressed their appreciation to Ms. Facchine for setting it up and to Joe Myers from North Dome for guiding the visit. Winslow recounted details provided that were helpful to recap and for members who had not attended to hear.

Ms. Facchine presented a detailed table showing potential contaminant sources, protection and/or management methods for those, and the beginning of implementation opportunities for them. At the next meeting, there will be more in depth discussion of the implementation opportunities and plans. This project is getting close to its completion.

The top priority on the table was excess vegetation and algae growth in Hollister Lake. The DOH and DEC guests indicated that DEC runs a sampling and identification program that could be used to characterize flora in the lake. The program is finishing for the year, but they agreed to consider Athens for the program next year. The results of a sampling report could be used to help the Village in its efforts to address the growth of vegetation and algae in the lake.

At this point Winslow left the meeting, as did the DOH and DEC guests.

5. Tree grant application update – at this point, Mr. Schembari joined the meeting via Zoom. There was discussion of progress on the updated Street Tree Inventory and the Tree Management Plan. Mr. Schembari said he should have the draft updated Street Tree Inventory spreadsheet and report available for the group to review next week. The draft Management Plan should be available the first week of November.

There was discussion of Tree #241 that the Village Board had voted last week as an emergency to take down at the request of DPW Director Sprague. Mr. Schembari agreed this tree was on the Inventory as declining and listed for non-imminent removal. He said that it is prudent when taking

down a neighboring tree, that if there is a second tree designated for removal, it could be removed as well for convenience and efficiency.

Dr. Lipsman and Ms. Little agreed to speak next week about documenting FOA volunteer hours for purposes of the Greenway grant.

6. Arbor Day observance – Ms. Little said FOA will be arranging in the next few weeks for care of the 40 trees it planted four years ago, and the CAC consensus was to piggyback the Village's Arbor Day observance onto that effort.
7. Tree Law – deferred to November
8. Member items
9. Agenda for meeting of November 17, 2022

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joshua Lipsman, MD