

Athens Conservation Advisory Council
Annual Report for 2022

Membership in 2022: Joshua Lipsman (Chair), Gerald Bunting, Susan Grilli, Moira Little, Merril Roth, Kyle Winslow

Ex-officio members: Maggie Moree, Planning Board Chair; Anthony Proper, succeeded by Chris Sprague, DPW Director

The first major development of 2022 was the announcement that Scenic Hudson had purchased the 6-acre industrial site on the Athens waterfront. During the 11 monthly meetings held in 2022, the Council continued to develop and refine the street tree program and Village tree law. The final proposed draft was provided to the Village Board of Trustees in the late Fall.

Other highlights include:

The drinking water source protection project was the subject for several meetings. With the assistance of Stephanie Facchine and Haley Gallo of the NYS Heath Department various tasks were undertaken.

A comprehensive drinking water source protection map was prepared by council member K. Winslow. Mr. Winslow also prepared a potential contaminant/contaminant source inventory. Upon a vote of the Council, it was determined that the critical buffer zone from the shoreline of Hollister Lake would be 500 feet (the State DEC standard is 100 feet). In November, a draft Drinking Water Source Protection Implementation Schedule was presented.

Other highlights include:

In February 2022 the CAC was informed with much fanfare that the Village had been anointed as a “2021 Tree City.”

On May 25, 2022, the Village inaugurated the new EV charging stations in the municipal lot.

A tree at 14 South Frankin was examined and pruning approved. A second tree at 12 South Franklin was also examined and cleared for removal.

Thanks to pooled funding from Greenway, the Village, Friends of Athens and CAC in-kind contributions, Angelo Schembari was engaged to update the tree inventory and prepare a street tree management program.

Trees numbered 241 (on Goodrich), 248 and 249 (in front of 84 North Franklin) were examined by members of the Council and were recommended for removal.

Jesenia Laureano assisted the Council with the Athens Climate Summary document, highlighting the three challenge areas of heat, drought, and flooding, and the opportunities they represent. The establishment of a Vulnerability Assessment and an Adaptation Plan was recommended.

In October, members of the Council were given a tour of the Village water treatment plant located adjacent to Hollister Lake.