

Athens Conservation Advisory Council meeting minutes
July 20, 2023
Athens Firehouse

Members present: Brunner, Lipsman, Little (by telephone), Reed

Members excused: Moree

Members absent: Collinson, Sprague

Meeting guests present: Stephanie Facchine, John Mickelson, Madline Silecchia, all from NYSDOH

Chairman Lipsman convened the meeting at 6:31pm.

1. Welcome and introductions – deferred.
2. Agenda review and approval – the agenda was approved by assent.
3. Approval of minutes of last meeting – the minutes of the meeting of June 15, 2023, were approved by assent.
4. Drinking Water Source Protection project – the DOH team presented a draft executive summary and draft final report. There was discussion and Mr. Brunner moved, seconded by Ms. Reed for the CAC to approve these documents. Passed unanimously. Ms. Facchine indicated that the next step is formal approval by DOH that could take a month, after which the documents could be forwarded to the Village Board.

There was discussion of the status of the interoperability of emergency water supply between the Village and Sleepy Hollow Lake. Dr. Lipsman stated that Mayor Serrago had requested some time to research meeting minutes and other documents from 2016, when this apparently last underwent a thorough review and discussion.

5. Athens Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) update grant – Dr. Lipsman explained the program and that the Village and its Waterfront Advisory Committee (WAC) are applying for a grant to update it. The mayor has indicated there will be a role for the CAC, but this has not yet been determined.
6. Trees
 - a. Tree City USA – Ms. Reed reiterated her willingness to submit the annual application prior to the November deadline.
 - b. Tree Grant due 8/16 – Ms. Little offered to try to set up a Zoom with her group Friends of Athens for Monday 7/24 at 7pm to discuss the possibility of submitting a grant proposal.
 - c. Tree Law update – Mr. Brunner agreed to review the Village code to find all relevant references to Trees as a kick-off for review and possible proposed updates to the Tree Law.
7. Administrative matters – Dr. Lipsman mentioned the member vacancy and chair transition.
8. Member items – Ms. Reed brought up several items:

- a. She expressed concern that the “glamping” development proposed for the 16-acre parcel south of Brick Row is orders of magnitude too large for the size of the site on many levels.
 - b. She mentioned that the old Hagar’s Harbor restaurant site is the location of an endangered rare plant.
 - c. She offered to approach the group Hudsonia about participating in the September CAC meeting to discuss the possibility of developing a local Natural Resources Inventory (NRI).
9. Agenda for meeting of September 21, 2023 (no meeting in August) – the agenda will include discussion of the Village code tree references and a possible Athens NRI.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joshua Lipsman, MD