

Athens Conservation Advisory Council meeting minutes
October 19, 2023
Athens Firehouse

Members present: Brunner, Lipsman, Moree, Reed

Members absent: Collinson, Little, Sprague

Chairman Lipsman convened the meeting at 6:32pm.

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 July 20, 2023, were approved by assent.
4. Drinking Water Source Protection project – there is no official approval yet of the draft report. Ms. Moree will be appearing on a panel of the NY Planning Association tomorrow in Albany with DOH staff to present our work on this
5. Trees
 - a. Tree City USA – Ms. Reed reiterated her willingness to submit the annual application prior to the December 1 deadline.
 - b. Tree Law update – Mr. Brunner presented the results of his study of the Village code on trees. There is a new section on trees (chapter 211) that was adopted in 2018. There are also scattered older provisions relating to trees that do not appear to be relevant or needed and could be deleted if the code is modified.

There was discussion about whether chapter 211 could be strengthened or modified to require permitting to cut anything above a certain number of trees, and/or certain sizes or types of trees. The group will continue to discuss if it wants to recommend any changes to chapter 211 to the Village Board.

There was discussion whether implications of new flood plain maps could impact trees around Brick Row.

6. Administrative matters – Dr. Lipsman mentioned the member vacancy and chair transition.
7. Member items
 - a. Mr. Brunner brought up comments appearing in the Facebook page for the Athens Community Board about smells emanating from the Peckham site at the bottom of Union Street.
 - b. Ms. Reed again offered to approach the group Hudsonia about participating in a future CAC meeting to discuss the possibility of developing a local Natural Resources Inventory (NRI).
 - c. Ms. Moree mentioned there is a new resource person at the Greene Land Trust who might be helpful and interesting to the CAC.

8. Agenda for meeting November 16, 2023 – the agenda will include discussion of the Village tree code. Dr. Lipsman will request the Village office room to be made available for on-going CAC regular meetings due to conflicts with other uses of the Firehouse space.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joshua Lipsman, MD