

Athens Conservation Advisory Council meeting minutes
March 20, 2025
Via Zoom

Members present: Braine, Brunner, Gillespie, Lipsman, Moree, Reed

Members excused:

Members absent: Sprague

Meeting guests present: Steve Winkley, LaBella Associates; Alyssa Bement, NYSDOH

Chairman Lipsman convened the meeting at 6:30pm.

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 February 20, 2025, were approved by assent.
4. Drinking Water Source Protection project – Mr. Winkley reviewed the latest draft versions of the 3 pamphlets he and his team prepared for possible circulation to property owners and residents in the Hollister Lake watershed. He also shared a mailing list of potential recipients associated with property in the watershed. Suggestions were made and subsequent drafts will be provided.

There was also discussion of the second task Mr. Winkley is working on – future development, regulation, and watershed management.

Ms. Bement inquired into the possibility of local adoption of the DWSP2 plan by the Village and posting of the public-facing version of the plan on the Village website. Dr. Lipsman said he would bring it to the Board at his last Village Trustee meeting next week. He will be continuing as CAC chair.

Ms. Moree offered to liaise with officials in Coxsackie who are updating their Comprehensive Plan to see about incorporating Hollister Lake protections into it.

5. Habitat Mapping Proposal update – application submitted; pending notification
6. Mayor's request – native grass lawns resources. No new work has been done on this project. The Planning Board is working on it as well, in the context of natural fences.
7. Trees
 - a. Tree Request – after discussion, it was agreed to recommend approval of Mr. Black's request to the Village Board from an environmental perspective.
 - b. Tree City USA – awarded; Mr. Gillespie will be attending the Recognition Lunch.

Messrs. Braine, Gillespie and Ms. Reed agreed to coordinate the Athens Village “Arbor Day” celebration for 2025 Tree City USA purposes, to be held at Community Day June 14. They will reach out to the Community Day coordinator, and report back at the April CAC meeting.

- c. DEC Community Forest Management Plan Implementation – discussion of award received and next steps; pending contract

8. Member items – none

9. Agenda for meeting of April 17 – via Zoom – this will be substantially similar to this month’s agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joshua Lipsman, MD