

Athens Conservation Advisory Council meeting minutes
April 17, 2025
Via Zoom

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

Members absent: Sprague

Meeting guests present: Steve Winkley, LaBella Associates; Alyssa Bement, NYSDOH; Lindsey Strehlau-Howay, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia-Greene

Chairman Lipsman convened the meeting at 6:32pm.

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 March 20, 2025, were approved by assent.
4. Drinking Water Source Protection project – Mr. Winkley provided the final versions of the brochures, which were approved by assent. There was general discussion about distribution.

Dr. Lipsman reported that the Village Board adopted the DWSP2 Report and agreed to post the public-facing version on its website. Ms. Bement reported she was working on this with the Mayor, and would also speak with her about posting the brochures.

There was discussion about incorporating relevant Report portions into the update of the Cocksackie Comprehensive Plan.

5. Climate Change Emergency Response project – Ms. Strehlau-Howay introduced this project and said she would be following up with an email to the CAC.
6. Habitat Mapping Proposal update – the Village was notified it was provisionally approved to receive this grant. Details are to be forthcoming.
7. Mayor's request – native grass lawns resources – Ms. Moree said she had discussed this with the Mayor.
8. Trees
 - a. Tree City USA – the Village's Arbor Day event for this year will be at Community Day. A subcommittee of CAC members is working out the details.
 - b. DEC Community Forest Management Plan Implementation – Dr. Lipsman attended a kick-off meeting for this grant. Despite extensive delays, the start date will be retroactive to October 2024, and the time cap will still be three years, with a possibility of extension at the end if supportable. It was stated that the Governor will fund this grant if federal funds fall through. Ms. Moree agreed to draft a 4-part RFP in consultation with the Village Attorney, and with Subject Matter Input from Ms. Reed

9. "Building Local Capacity for Conservation" Zoom, May 8, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm – a flyer for this webinar was distributed

10. Member items – none

11. Agenda for meeting of May 15 – via Zoom – the agenda will be substantially like this month's

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joshua Lipsman, MD