

Athens Conservation Advisory Council meeting minutes
June 19, 2025
Via Zoom

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

Members excused: Reed

Members absent: Sprague

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

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 May 15, 2025, were approved by assent.
4. Drinking Water Source Protection project – Mr. Winkley reported that he is working on an assessment of existing local laws, policies and Hollister Lake protection programs active with the Towns of Athens and Coxsackie. His assessment will report on the current situation, the effectiveness of the current situation, and recommendations.

Ms. Bement reported that she has been working with the mayor to get the information on the village website and options for materials distribution.

Ms. Moree reported she had coincidentally and serendipitously made connections at a training with the Supervisor and Mayor of Coxsackie, who are both updating their Comprehensive Plan, and gave them a heads up about our project.

5. Disaster Preparedness Education project – Ms. Strehlau-Howay was unable to attend but sent an email with a couple of requests for the group. The group decided it would request both General Disaster and Flooding Preparedness as brochure topics, and also came up with ideas for sources for brochure photos.
6. Habitat Mapping Proposal update – Dr. Lipsman said he would email the Hudson River Estuary Project for an update.
7. Native planting resources – Mr. Gillespie shared resources he'd been collecting. He and Ms. Moree, who said she would recruit her sister for assistance, said they would work on draft materials for the CAC to review and then to recommend to the Village Board.
8. Trees
 - a. Tree City USA – There were nothing but superlatives for this year's Arbor Day observance at Athens Community Day June 14. Several CAC members participated and/or attended. Ms.

Reed previously had agreed to complete the Village's Tree City USA application, now that the Arbor Day observance has happened.

- b. DEC Community Forest Management Plan Implementation – pending contract; Ms. Moree reported she is working on draft RFPs.

- 9. Member items – Ms. Moree cited an article on native trees in Tannersville. Mr. Braine recommended a couple of relevant books.

- 10. Agenda for meeting of July 17 – via Zoom

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joshua Lipsman, MD