

Athens Conservation Advisory Council meeting minutes

November 20, 2025

Via Zoom

Members present: Bradicich, Moree, Reed, Brunner, Braine

Members absent: Sprague, Gillespie

Meeting guests present: Lindsey Strehlau-Howay, Will McCall, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Chairman Bradicich convened the meeting at 6:37pm.

Disaster Preparedness Education project – Resolution passed at last Village Board meeting, web page is available on the village website but not published yet until CAC is ready. Lindsey Strehlau-Howay discussed web page, files available for downloading, social media portion of project, rack cards to be printed and picked up in Albany. Discussed outreach strategy, tool kit for climate and weather event education, points for Climate Smart Communities program. Webinar will be held on December 9th at 6pm on Zoom. The event will be recorded for residents to view at a later date. Rack cards will be distributed to village office and final email do close out work with CAC. Ms. Moree asked about recommendations for resident engagement. Discussion on rack cards and tracking social media engagement, website visit counts. Plan is one social media post each month on Athens Community Board on Facebook, also look into adding it to monthly village newsletter. Mr. Bradicich gave a list of locations to distribute rack cards. Ms. Strehlau-Howay requested a copy of the resolution passed by the Village Board. Mr. McCall asked about link in website that did not work and Mr. Bradicich provided location in page. Ms. Strehlau-Howay mentioned flood guide that needs to be added to website.

Drinking Water Source Protection Project – Village Board approved \$500 for mailers. Alyssa Bement sent email with date for meetings, Town of Coxsackie Planning Board meeting February 5th, Town of Athens Planning Board meeting on February 26th.

Habitat Mapping Proposal update – State has asked the Mayor to resubmit information through website

Trees – Ms. Moree gave an update, village attorney said due to size of project we have to use an RFP instead of just an RFQ, also need a scoring mechanism. Discussion on requirements and terms for bidders. Mr. Bradicich discussed the potential for companies to bid on separate sections, divide project into three parts. The hope is to have RFP completed in the next 30 to 60 days or by the end of January. Ms. Reed joined discussion on requirements, timeline, ANSI standards and ISA certified arborists. The arborist for the city of Albany has offered to help with process. Mr. Bradicich will make draft documents available for rest of CAC to look over and make comments. Ms. Moree continued discussion on terms and conditions as well as timeline and pricing of services. Discussion on education and training portion of RFP, training for DPW and possible education for the public. Tree inventory will be made available for bidders. Mr. Brunner asked if change to RFP would require it to be published in a newspaper or other areas. Mr. Bradicich will talk to village attorney on requirements. Ms. Moree talked about casting a wide net with RFP to get enough interest in project from bidders and to be able to score properly.

Climate Smart Communities – Athens is currently at bronze level as of June 2021. In June 2026 we get reevaluated. Mr. Bradicich will send details in an email to CAC members on scoring and points to possibly get to the next level. Next steps to be discussed at December meeting.

Tree City USA – Ms. Moree asked if this was the time of year we are supposed to submit application. Mr. Bradicich was expecting an email from the Mayor and will reach out to her. Ms. Reed will work with Mr. Bradicich to get information updated and submitted before December 2nd deadline.

Mr. Braine said Sam Merrit still wants to see Scenic Hudson building. Mr. Bradicich suggested mid December. Also discussed Mr. Merrit having a saw mill and possibly making slabs of wood from the trees that will be taken down to sell as a fund raiser. Also discussed making items and working with the Cultural Center for a show on Athens trees.

Minutes from September meeting discussion, motion by Ms. Moree, seconded by Mr. Braine, all in favor vote to accept minutes.

Discussion on December 18th meeting and availability.

Motion to adjourn from Ms. Moree, seconded by Mr. Brunner, all in favor vote

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm