

Athens Conservation Advisory Council meeting minutes

December 18, 2025

Via Zoom

Members present: Bradicich, Moree, Reed, Brunner

Members absent: Sprague, Gillespie, Braine

Chairman Bradicich convened the meeting at 6:40pm.

While waiting for additional members to join, had discussion on habitat mapping proposal, tree grant RFP and Climate Smart Communities.

Ms. Moree discussed community outreach in January and February on tree grant, possibly in person or through Zoom to educate the public. Also talked about how other communities like the City of Albany and Rhinebeck have handled community outreach. Representative from Greene Land Trust mentioned as possible person to help. Ms. Moree also mentioned using the village newsletter in January to let the public know about what is happening with trees.

November meeting minute discussion, Ms. Reed made motion to accept the minutes, Ms. Moree seconded, all in favor vote.

Drinking Water Source Protection Project – Rack cards will be delivered tomorrow and Mr. Bradicich will pick them up from the village office. Town of Athens Planning Board meeting will be February 26 at 7pm and the Town of Coxsackie Planning Board meeting will be February 5th at 7pm to discuss proposed law changes for the watershed.

Disaster Preparedness Education project – Social media outreach has gone out twice, website has been updated.

Habitat Mapping Proposal update – Draft contract has been received, available for CAC members to review.

Tree Grant RFP – Continued discussion on the next steps. Ms. Reed offered to share a contact list from previous work on the grant. Ms. Moree talked about her research into what the City of Albany did to engage the public on street trees, adopting street trees, etc. Also mentioned if we get the RFP finalized possibly moving forward with the education portion in February. Ms. Reed mentioned her contact from Albany, Will Crowley, who offered to help with language in the RFP. Discussion on what can be shared with Mr. Crowley until it is determined if he would be bidding on any portion of the project. Ms. Reed will reach out to him.

Discussion on areas of the RFP that may need improvement such as scoring, tree removal, pruning, ANSI standards, etc. Mr. Bradicich will reach out to the village attorney for input on the RFP. Ms. Reed asked the group if there were exactly 75 invasive trees to be removed. Group discussion on invasive trees, possible resistance to removal of certain invasive trees and education on why they should be removed.

Mr. Bradicich asked the group to review the RFP again before Christmas and make edits.

Pat Gillespie has resigned from the CAC. Mr. Bradicich asked the group for recommendations for a replacement that would be a good fit.

Mr. Bradicich and Mr. Braine met with Sam Merrett at the Scenic Hudson property on Rt. 385. Mr. Merrett owns the boat Apollonia and is the harbor master for the City of Hudson. He wants to have a trade school named Tides and Trades, is looking to tie in with local colleges to help students get certified in areas like maritime electrician, maritime diesel mechanic, etc. He is also interested in dockage there and the ability to move large boats in and out of the water. Mr. Bradicich believes it is a good idea but there are a lot of questions to be answered, such as what would be needed from the village in this project.

Discussion on January 15th meeting and availability. Possibly may need to be moved to the 22nd.

Ms. Moree brought up possibility of completing RFP by the next meeting and availability of group for Q&A sessions with potential bidders. Also discussed scoring of bids and it should be an odd number of people.

No member items for discussion.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm