

VILLAGE OF ATHENS
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING AGENDA

September 17, 2020
6:30-8 PM

Members present: Bunting, Grilli, Lipsman, Little, Proper, Winslow
Members excused: Moree

Meeting guests present:

Mayor Bradicich

Gretchen Stevens, Director, Biodiversity Resources Center, Hudsonia Ltd.

Kelsey West, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Chairman Lipsman convened the meeting at 6:31.

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Agenda review and approval - Agenda was approved with the addition of “approval of minutes” and “remarks by Mayor Bradicich”. MOTION Winslow, second Grilli, PASSED unanimously
3. Approval of minutes of last meeting - MOTION Little, second Winslow, PASSED unanimously
4. Orientation to Advisory Councils – A presentation was made by Gretchen Stevens, Director, Biodiversity Resources Center, Hudsonia Ltd. Ms. Stevens works with CACs in her professional capacity and is a 13-year member of the Hillsdale CAC in Columbia County. She provided an overview of CAC responsibilities, in particular stressing both the wide latitude CACs have to set their own agendas, and the NYS law primary CAC obligation to create an open space index/inventory, acknowledging that CACs sometimes take years to get around to this. She also described activities of other Hudson Valley CACs and agreed to send follow-up information regarding some of them.
5. Remarks by Mayor Bradicich – The Mayor welcomed and thanked Council members for their service and said he was pleased to hear Ms. Stevens’ remarks, which affirmed his belief that there was sufficient subject material to justify creation of the Athens CAC.
6. Tree discussion – Mayor Bradicich oriented the Council to the history and duties involved in assuming the role of the Tree Committee. Anthony Proper, Village of Athens DPW chief, provided a list of dead or imperiled trees for CAC review. The following Village trees were identified as dead and in need of urgent action recommendations:
 - Church and Market Streets (no tag)
 - 35 South Franklin Street (tag numbers 156 & 157)

--Van Loon house crab apples trees (no tag)
--Goodrich and North Franklin Streets (242)
--112 Second Street at Vernon Street (216)

After discussion that focused on the urgency of removal due to imminent potential harm to persons or property, MOTION Little to recommend to the Village Board these dead trees be removed, second Bunting, PASSED unanimously

The following trees were thought by Mr. Proper to be sufficiently deteriorated to merit removal but that decisions about them could wait until the CAC's next monthly meeting to give members time to view the trees themselves:

--14 South Franklin Street (tag number 80)
--12 South Franklin Street (79)
--84 North Franklin Street (284)

Mr. Proper noted that Chris Pfister had offered to monitor trees in the village and report to the CAC any that needed removal. Dr. Lipsman said he would follow up with Mr. Pfister.

Mr. Proper also agreed to keep Mr. Winslow apprised of trees that are removed so they can be deleted from the electronic database maintained by Mr. Winslow that was generated from the 2017 Tree Survey. Mr. Winslow agreed to contact Trustee Serrago to discuss making the electronic tree inventory available on the Village website. Dr. Lipsman agreed to re-send the Tree Survey to members.

7. Climate Smart Community (CSC) certification update - Kelsey West, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia-Greene Counties gave the CAC an update on Athens efforts to obtain bronze certification, and encouraged them to look at the portal with information about point values for various qualifying actions. Dr. Lipsman mentioned that Liz LoGiudice is preparing a draft webpage for the Village website on Athens efforts and that he would share a beta version of this with members when it was available. This is a sponsored service at no cost to the Village.
8. October 15 meeting agenda – Dr. Lipsman introduced Dan Flannery, Assistant Vice President of Operations with Peckham, who invited the Council to meet at a local Peckham facility. The group thanked Mr. Flannery but opted to continue to meet at the municipal building to see how that works out. Dr. Lipsman stated that so far for the next meeting agenda, he has only Tree Committee and CSC agenda items, which may not be enough to hold a meeting. He asked members to submit other possible agenda items.
9. Council member vacancies – There are currently two vacancies.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56. MOTION Bunting, second Winslow, PASSED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Joshua Lipsman, MD