

Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Zoom Conference Call
Wednesday December 2, 2020 6:00 PM

1. Call to order – Chairperson Aimee Delach called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM with a land acknowledgment. Members present include Aimee Delach, Austin Babrow, Paul Logue, Megan Almeida, Sarah Conley-Ballew, Sam Crowl, Ed Newman, Jasmine Facun, and Elaine Goetz. Stefan Gleissberg reported his absence in advance. Members not present include Abbey Rodjam. Quorum was established. Guests include Lauren Conner and Alexandra Sines.

2. Disposition of Minutes—the minutes from October 2020 were reviewed by the board. Elaine motioned to approve the minutes as submitted to the board. Sam seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion was approved.

3. Next Meeting Date – January 6, 2021—Sarah reported her absence from the January meeting.

4. Old Business

A. Backyard Chickens—Sarah gave some background on the situation in Athens and some best practices from comparable communities. Biggest barrier in Athens is the relative small size of residential lots as relating to the requirements in the city’s zoning code. Ed asked about care of chickens—size of pens etc. and how that would be handled.

B. Sustainability plan reporting—Elaine reported on the working meeting from October. Work is ongoing on this. Paul will work with his intern to complete the reporting on this.

5. New Business

A. Pollinator habitat/planting for solar array—Sarah recommends a vegetation management plan. Aimee knows some resources to help. Ed recommended the plantings include local natives.

B. OEPA EC3 program—Sam reported that OU has been awarded designations from this in the past. Sam, Jasmine, and Paul are planning to attend a webinar on this and see if it’s a good fit to apply again.

C. Comp plan update—Paul reported that the city’s comprehensive plan is on City Council’s agenda this month. The city planning commission recommended approval at their November meeting. Sustainability is an important thread within the plan.

6. Announcements and Updates

A. Wayne National Forest plan—Aimee report that the Wayne is working on story maps and ecological mapping.

B. Ohio University Sustainability & Climate Action Plan public comment period—Elaine reported that they are opening up for public comments. www.ohio.edu/sustainability/administration-hub and www.ohio.edu/sustainability/infrastructure-hub

7. Adjournment—Sam motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sarah seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 7:01

Respectfully submitted by Paul Logue