

W. SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2016 at 7:00 PM

Burchfield Nature & Art Center – 2001 Union Rd., West Seneca

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 P.M.

II. ATTENDANCE

Members: Evelyn Hicks (EH), Chair, Rick Rutkowski (RR), Vice-Chair, Dave Monopolus (DM), Lauren Masset, (LM), Mike Wass (MW), Karl Spencer (KS), Jim Caruso (JC), Camie Jarrell (CJ)

Associate Members: Emily Baker (EB), Matt D. Poole (MP)

Absent/Excused: Matthew Roche, Rich Corbetta

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Meeting Minutes – May, June, July 2016 - tabled-
2. 2016 Budget –WSEC budget balance - \$1190.17
National Fish and Wildlife Federation - \$2,710.96
US Fish & Wildlife Service - \$28,310.00
3. Correspondence - none
4. Office – status quo
5. 2015 Annual Report – status quo

IV. WSEC PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Oxbow (2805 Clinton St.) – RR reported that plastic guard material around some trees might have to be adjusted or removed, as it appears that it could be interfering with growth – also, some trees (est. 10) appear to have died –
2. 2735 Clinton St. – EH reports that no information re: purchase of portion of the property by the Town was available from the Town Attorney - RR, MW documented reduction in water volume (est. 18"-22") with photographs after work performed (week of July25) by contractor who replaced culvert (at oxbow outlet to Buffalo Creek) – work was performed under the jurisdiction of the Erie Co. Soil & Water Conservation District (permit was issued by NYSDEC), RR also produced a draft timeline of the oxbow evolution (provided to EH) – RR, MW reviewed culvert replacement site plans (obtained from NYSDEC by RR) - EH asked for opinions of members as to how to proceed – after discussion, consensus opinion was that Town should send a letter to the NYSDEC informing them as to what has occurred as a result of the work that has been performed, and enlist the aid of stakeholders (i.e. Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper)
3. Subcommittee reports:
 - Tree Issues Subcommittee – KS reports that the Planning Board has reviewed the Tim Horton's site plan – also, he spoke with Town Attorney J. Fenz and Code Enforcement Officer J. Gullo, and they report that this project will meet the Town Tree Ordinance criteria – EH reports that work on the W. Sen. Tree Ordinance Handbook and the W. Sen. Tree Ordinance PPT is ongoing
 - Creek Awareness Subcommittee – status quo
 - Water Quality Issues Subcommittee:
 - Canoe/Kayak launch site (880 Harlem Rd.) –status quo
 - Storm drain marking program – completed for 2016
 - Rain Barrel distribution program – 4 barrels (provided by DM in July) have been fabricated into rain barrels by RR (stored at 2735 Clinton St.) – 8 rain barrels at site ready for distribution – DM will investigate the

availability of additional empty barrels, RR will obtain additional barrel fabrication supplies (as necessary)

- Municipal Rain Barrels – status quo

4. 2016 Projects –:

- Possible development of public outreach of WSEC activities to residents during 2016 BNAC events – see Music Festival at BNAC (below)
- National Night Out (Aug. 2) at Southgate Plaza – members staffing our table were EH, RR, JC, MW, RC, DM - 1 rain barrel “raffled off” to W. Seneca resident, 1 set aside to “raffle off” at BNAC music festival (Aug 28) event
- Music Festival at BNAC – (Aug 28, 2016) - WSEC will staff a table at event, members will take shifts staffing the table – RR will bring a rain barrel for display to the site

V. OTHER PROJECTS - None

VI. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC - None

Meeting Adjourned – 8:10 P.M.

Next meeting – Sept 27