

WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016 at 7:00 PM

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

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00

II. ATTENDANCE: –: Evelyn Hicks (EH), Chair, Rick Rutkowski (RR), Vice-Chair, Karl Spencer (KS), Dave Monopolopolus (DM), Jim Caruso (JC), Lauren Masset (LM), Mike Wass (MW), Matthew Roche (MR),

Absent - Camie Jarrell (CJ)

Associate Members: Richard Corbetta (RC), Emily Baker (EB), Matt Poole (MP)

Guests: Christie (W. Seneca Sun)

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

Meeting Minutes – April 2016 – need review

2016 Budget –WSEC budget balance - \$1259.26)

- National Fish and Wildlife Federation - \$2,710.96
- US Fish & Wildlife Service - \$29,000.00
- Publically thank Sue Kims for (\$100.00) donation for the community garden.

Correspondence: None

Office – status quo

2015 Annual Report – Water Quality Issues Subcommittee Accomplishments (2015) sent to members by RR on 5/17/16

IV. WSEC PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Oxbow (2805 Clinton St.)

- River Academy was present in early May .
- Margaret Wooster did a presentation for the Town Board regarding stream corridors.
- Issue regarding trespassing was again discussed

2. 2735 Clinton St.

- Field work for property survey completed, documents not yet prepared

3. Subcommittee reports:

- Tree Issues Subcommittee - EH suggested meeting to be put into place for Jordan Juzdowski (intern) effective the 23rd of May. His responsibilities consist of creating a handbook and presentation.
- Creek Awareness Subcommittee - On May 17th, Creek Awareness & Safety presentation by EH and KS to 268 6th graders at W. Sen. West Middle School. - Students were engaged in the presentation - EH contacted by the WSCSD head of science department regarding developing a curriculum addition for the environmental factors in the Town of West Seneca.
- Water Quality Issues Subcommittee:

- Canoe/Kayak launch site (880 Harlem Rd.) – schedule for construction is anticipated this summer, with actual construction most likely to begin in 2017
 - Storm drain marking program – JC, RR will begin the project next week, student members agree to participate
 - Rain Barrels distribution program -RR indicated rain barrels will be picked up this week and later distributed
 - 2015 Accomplishments – RR sent to Town Board, Engineering office information for inclusion with West Seneca Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Annual Report
4. 2016 Projects –
- Americana Music Fest Sunday August 28th - RR will speak with Carol Yetter regarding possible development of public outreach of WSEC activities to residents during 2016 BNAC events.
 - National Night Out (Aug. 2) at Southgate Plaza - LM & EB will arrange for 2 tables and chairs to be set up at the tent.

V. OTHER PROJECTS

1. Cazenovia Creek Wildlife Area –
 - Paul McKeown (NYSDEC) states no plans to compile maps or further work.
 - EH reports her conversation with P. McKeown involving Oxbow regarding DEC larvicide in response to Zika virus. EH presents conversations with Naja Kraus (NYSDEC) regarding Hogweed any concerns, call her at 845-256-3001
2. National Grid Gardenville Station Upgrade (885 Indian Church Rd.) – site work initiated
 - EH states National grid will honor the agreement (\$80, 000.00) - a portion of the \$ will be used at 2805 Clinton St. Phragmites removal is necessary, and a proposal exists for a wildlife viewing area
3. 3254 Clinton St - (Proposed new build.) – RR, CJ reviewed SEQR/site plan, provided comments to Town/Planning Boards
4. Proposed Tim Hortons (Indian Church Rd./Union Rd.) - Town Board approved zoning change - KS will attend Planning Board meeting re: site review planning
5. NY State Consolidated Funding Application – opportunities: RR reports:
 - Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering/Planning grants –
 - \$2M available (\$100 K grants) – opportunity for addressing Hi View Terrace combined sewer system discharge to Cazenovia Creek
 - \$26 M Water Quality Improvement Projects – \$25.9M available, with 85% reimbursement – opportunity for Hi View Terrace combined sewer system discharge to Cazenovia Creek
 - Green Infrastructure Grant Program - \$10M available
 - Climate Smart Communities – Certification Projects - \$11M available
 - Office of Parks Recreation and Historical Preservation – monies available to acquire 3099 Clinton St.? (previously Mecca Bros. farm) -proposals due 7/29/16
6. Proposed Croglio Subdivision - residential subdivision on 40+ acres of land

VI. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC

1. Harlem Rd. Bridge Replacement Project - Brian Kirby (NYSDOT) advised that construction is anticipated to begin in August 2016 – most of the work will involve utilities relocation (i.e. utility poles, natural gas line)

Meeting adjourned - 8:37p.m.

Next meeting – June 28

W. Sen. Env. Comm Mtg Mins – May 2016