

W. SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)

Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at 7:00 PM

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

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:03 P.M.

II. ATTENDANCE

Members: Evelyn Hicks (EH), Chair, Rick Rutkowski (RR), Vice-Chair, Dave Monopolus (DM), Jim Caruso (JC), Mike Wass (MW)

Absent/Excused: Karl Spencer, Lauren Masset, Matthew Roche

Associate Members: Camie Jarrell (CJ)

Guests: Lawrence Stubbs, Jon Fenske, Lena Pasqualette, Nora Mikes, Amelia Palka

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Meeting Minutes – Feb. 2016 - approved
2. 2016 Budget – JC e-mailed WSEC budget summary to members - (balance - \$1259.26)
National Fish and Wildlife Federation - \$2,710.96
US Fish & Wildlife Service - \$29,000.00 (designated for purchase of 2735 Clinton St.)
3. Correspondence – letter received from J. Jaskowski re: internship with WSEC
4. Office – status quo (computer, printer need to be serviced).
National Fish and Wildlife Federation - \$2,710.96
US Fish & Wildlife Service - \$29,000.00 (designated for purchase of 2735 Clinton St.)
5. 2015 Annual Report - RR reports that no information has been received from members
6. Memberships – status quo (no information received from Town Board)

IV. WSEC PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Oxbow (2805 Clinton St.) – site visit (3/25) by EH, Margaret Wooster (U.B. School of Architecture), Josh Kanovitz (Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper) – activities planned:
 - April 15 – (U.B. School of Architecture) - evaluation of Buffalo Creek corridor
 - May 5 - (Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper)
 - Canisius High School Key Club – tree protection, invasive species removal
2. 2735 Clinton St. – EH advises that a portion of the parcel will be obtained by the T. W/ Seneca - survey needs to be performed (using WSEC funds) to subdivide parcel prior to acquisition by Town – JC motion to approve expenditure (not to exceed \$500.00) for survey necessary to delineate into 2 parcels (private ownership, Town ownership) – second by DM - approved
3. Subcommittee reports:
 - Tree Issues Subcommittee – KS will attend 4/14 Planning Board meeting
 - Creek Awareness Subcommittee – presentation scheduled for 5/17 - KS to contact M. Bystrak (Principal – W. Sen. W. High School) to confirm presentation time – Also, J. Jaskowski internship will consist of :
 - development of handbook pertaining to Town tree ordinance for developers;
 - development of a Request for Proposal (to nurseries, arborists) interested in working with developers on projects in W. Seneca

- Water Quality Issues Subcommittee:
 - Canoe/Kayak launch site (880 Harlem Rd.) – on 3/20, RR sent DOT's preliminary site plan to members - B. Kirby (DOT) advised that the design for the path/ramps will avoid impacting trees
 - Storm drain marking program – status quo
 - Rain Barrels distribution program – status quo
- 4. 2016 Projects –:
 - possible development of public outreach of WSEC activities to residents during 2016 BNAC events – on 2/26, RR sent 2 PPTs to members for review/comments (none received)
 - Earth Day (Apr 23) – Buffalo Creek clean up event scheduled at BNAC, CJ agrees to be “site captain” for Cazenovia Creek clean up (Orchard Park Rd./Ridge Rd)
 - National Night Out (Aug. 2) at Southgate Plaza

V. OTHER PROJECTS

1. Cazenovia Creek Wildlife Area – status quo
2. National Grid Gardenville Station Upgrade (885 Indian Church Rd.) – EH will contact Nat'l. Grid to determine status of Wetlands permit

- VI. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC – L. Stubbs asked re: availability of monetary assistance for homeowners to remove privately owned trees infested by Emerald Ash Borer – EH advised that no municipal assistance was available

Next meeting – Apr 26

Adjourned: 8:04 P.M.