

W. SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 28, 2017 at 7:00 PM

West Seneca Senior Center - 4620 Seneca St., West Seneca

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:02 P.M.

II. ATTENDANCE

Evelyn Hicks (EH) Chair, Rick Rutkowski (RR) Vice-Chair, Jim Caruso (JC), Mike Wass (MW), Dave Monopolus (DM), Karl Spencer (KS), Matthew Roche (MR), Matt Poole (MP)

Absent/Excused: Camie Jarrell (CJ), Lauren Masset (LM), Emily Baker (EB), Amy Kobler (AK)

Guests: Tyler Diaz (student)

West Seneca Town Board member: Bill Hanley (BH)

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Meeting Minutes – Mar. 2017 – amended, approved by members - April 2017 - approved by members
2. 2017 WSEC Budget – \$1500.00
Town Environmental funds:
 - National Fish and Wildlife Federation - \$2,710.96
 - US Fish & Wildlife Service - \$29,000.00
3. Correspondence - none
4. Office – Metz House – EH reports that the “Metz House” (16 School St.) is now available for our use – meeting area is downstairs, office area is upstairs, storage area is available – stuffed animals may be displayed at the site
5. 2015, 2016 Annual Reports – status quo

IV. WSEC PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Oxbow (2805 Clinton St.) – JC reports a donation of 4 nesting boxes from Ducks Unlimited –EH will investigate siting criteria, JC & RR will move boxes to 2735 Clinton St (shed) for storage
2. 2735 Clinton St. –status quo
3. Standing Subcommittee reports:
 - Tree Issues Subcommittee – KS attended 5/11 Planning Board meeting to monitor discussions concerning development for compliance with Tree Ordinance
 - Creek Awareness Subcommittee – EH reports that conducting the Creek Awareness and Safety presentation at West Seneca West Middle School is not viable for Spring 2017 due to school scheduling constraints
 - Water Quality Issues Subcommittee – EH advises that WQI 2016 Table of Accomplishments was sent (April 27, also June 3, 2017) to the Town Board with the request that the information be incorporated into West Seneca’s 2016 Stormwater MS4 Annual Report
 - Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Launch – 880 Harlem Rd. - RR sent e-mail (4/5) to NYSDOT re: erosion at site – DOT advised that contractor will be directed to re-seed, re-mulch area
 - Rain Barrels – EH expresses concern of theft of brass fittings from barrels – DM suggests use of plastic ball valves – RR will research
 - Municipal Rain Barrels - RR will speak with Carol Yetter to determine viability of siting barrels at the Metz House
 - Storm Drain Medallions – status quo

- Next meeting – members of subcommittee will schedule a working meeting at 2735 Clinton St. to retrofit and distribute rain barrels – logistics to be determined
- Bylaws Subcommittee - JC requests that meeting be scheduled – members discuss logistics, and select June 14, 6:30 p.m. at the Metz House

V. 2017 MEMBER PROJECTS

1. Student Recycling after Sporting Events – no report
2. Prescription Drug Drop Off – RR reports that AK said that Police Chief Denz opted not to undertake the program at this time – members discuss, and EH suggests we revisit this issue in Fall 2017.
3. Public Outreach & Education re: Household Recycling – EH reports that AK has posted Modern Disposal Recycling information at Town Hall

VI. OTHER PROJECTS

1. Croglia Estates Subdivision - developer will comply with Tree Ordinance - no further action
2. Oakgrove Construction (422 Mineral Springs Rd.) – BH reported much public opposition at May 4 Senior Center meeting– said that Oakgrove Construction subsequently withdrew their application for a concrete recycling operation. No further action.
3. 162 Slade Ave.- EH reports that CJ reviewed site application plans, and found no issues other than concern for trees at the site
4. 4972/4982 Seneca St. – application withdrawn
5. Meyer Rd. Wetland/National Grid Upgrade – BH reports that:
 - Town received new License Agreement (replaces Lease Agreement) from National Grid;
 - Town received \$61,000 from National Grid – will be deposited into the Town’s General Funds (to be used exclusively for WSEC projects) – EH requests that JC set up a new budget line for these funds

VII. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC

1. Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off Event (June 3, 2017) – EH asks that the announcement for this event be posted on the Town’s web site
2. Deer Control Program – some residents have voiced their concern re: deer eating their ornamental vegetation - EH advises that studies show negligible impact on deer population from deer fertility control programs, “bait and shoot” programs – RR suggests that the WSEC can educate the public by suggesting planting varieties of plants that deer do not “favor” to reduce damage to ornamental vegetation.
3. Norfolk Southern Railroad Property Abandonment Program – EH suggested use of abandoned property for possible conversion for bicycling (i.e. “rails to trails”) – location of property is west of the intersection of Indian Church Rd./Mineral Springs Rd, between Buffalo Creek at the “Black Bridge” and the W. Seneca Cheektowaga town line – discussion among members ensued, no resolution

Adjourned – 8:25 p.m.

Next meeting – June 27, 2017