

W. SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 30, 2010 at 7:00 PM

Burchfield Nature and Arts Center

2001 Union Road, West Seneca

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:15

II. ATTENDANCE

Present: Evelyn Hicks (EH), Rick Rutkowski (RR), Joyce Mallette (JM),
Paula Olma (PO), Dave Monopololus (DM), George Rockey (GR)

Guests: Jack Oshei, Annie Oshei, Linda Emmi, Michelle Wiley

Excused: Gary Oosterhoudt

Absent: Sheila Meegan

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Meeting minutes for August 2010 and October 2010 were accepted. RR will provide same to Town for posting on web site
2. Treasurer's report: JM reports that total expenditures to date (paid in full) are \$568.98 - \$431.02 remains in 2010 budget. EH will purchase a GPS unit, binoculars, and computer "flash drive(s) with remaining funds, as has been discussed at previous meetings.
3. Office Space - has been obtained for the WSEC in the Burchfield Center. A new sign for the door was made and donated by Sign Systems Express. EH has asked the Town to supply an Internet compatible surplus computer and other office equipment – shelving for the office would be desirable.
4. Guests (see ATTENDANCE above) at the meeting were introduced. Jack Oshei provided a letter to EH requesting appointment to the WSEC as a youth member.
5. Correspondence –
 - the WSEC has received a letter from the NYSDEC advising that an inspection (conducted Oct 15, 2010) of the oxbow indicated compliance with the Freshwater Wetlands permit at that time
 - the WSEC has received a letter from E. Toepfler – he complained about an odor coming from his neighbor's property – letter will be forwarded to the Town Attorney and the Town Engineer, and EH will send a response letter

IV. DISCUSSION - 2010 WSEC PROJECTS

1. Oxbow Property – The National Fish and Wildlife Federation grant project is essentially completed – a final report will be obtained from Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper - M. Wooster (Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper) had arranged for Japanese knotweed removal at 4 areas - on 11/14, RR, EH, M Wooster, along with a W. Seneca girl scout troop, had performed knotweed removal at one of those areas – in a related scenario, EH will conduct an environmental education session for Girl Scout troop 30866 at the Burchfield Center on 1/19/2011 at 6:30 PM – also, there is a need to trap/remove the beaver which now reside in the oxbow – DM will pursue the feasibility of placement of barriers in strategic locations along the

berm to keep all but essential emergency response vehicles from accessing the oxbow lands.

2. Serafini Property – EH would like the Commission to be prepared to pursue grant funds to obtain/purchase the property – RR continually reviews current issues of the NY State Register, Federal Register, and Environmental Notice Bulletin for grant opportunities - Jack Oshei also will look for similar opportunities
4. Hi View Terrace – RR reports that the NYSDEC reports that the grant proposal did not score very high – no other information is available
5. Leydecker Rd. Creek Access Point – JM reported that she was at the site recently and did not notice any large amounts of litter/trash – DM will check the site when time becomes available to him.

V. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1. Edbauer Construction – land clearing, property development is ongoing.
2. Houghton College – no new information to report.

VI. NEW PROJECTS FOR 2011

1. 1030 Orchard Park Rd – no new information to report – EH will check with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to determine the amount of funding that is available for any projects within this parcel
2. 1200 East & West Rd. – NYSDEC will obtain this parcel from the NYS Development Center – EH would like to see a conservation easement become a part of the deed for the parcel
3. Members Suggested Projects for 2011
 - PO would like to protect the ash trees which exist in West Seneca by investigating control of the emerald ash borer (which is damaging ash trees in the Southern Tier)
 - JM will coordinate the WSEC educational activities (i.e. displays) at the library
 - EH will pursue grant opportunities for acquisition of the Serafini (2735 Clinton St) parcel
 - GR will continue the work at the oxbow
 - DM will pursue opportunities for access at the creeks in the Town
 - RR will handle stormwater issues (storm sewer stenciling, public education) and will investigate/pursue grant opportunities

Meeting adjourned – 9:20