

W. SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Burchfield Nature and Arts Center (BNAC)
2001 Union Road, West Seneca

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:02 P.M.

II. ATTENDANCE

Present: Evelyn Hicks (EH), Rick Rutkowski (RR), Joyce Mallette (JM), Dave Monopolus (DM,) Jack Oshei (JO), Gary Oosterhoudt (GO), George Rockey (GR)

Absent: Sheila Meegan (SM), Paula Olma (PO)

Guests: William Kondrak - 692 Potters Rd., Steve Kondrak - 688 Potters Rd., Joe Scott - 78 Burgundy Circle, Linda Emmi - 100 Rosewood Dr. Richard and Mary Urbanowski - 35 Lakeside Dr., Garry and Ann Mackiewicz - 50 Lakeside Dr., Dennis Grabowski - 59 Lakeside Dr., John and Kathy Raszeja - 66 Lakeside Dr., James Vallery - 74 Lakeside Dr., Clara Lenczyk - 43 Lakeside Dr. – (all West Seneca residents)

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. June 2011 meeting minutes were reviewed, corrected, accepted by the commission members
2. Financial/Treasurer's report - current balance - \$2659.00 (status quo since last month)
3. Correspondence – received re: West Seneca Night Out event Aug 2, 2011 - 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. - JM will obtain 2 tables & 4 chairs - JO will attend, will bring small stuffed animals (currently stored in BNAC attic) – GR, DM, JM, JO, GO to attend
4. Office/Storage - EH has ordered a projector and monitor (cost will be approx. \$550.00) and she will provide a screen from home – she has not yet purchased the camera – JM said that she has used a Town credit card in the past, and suggests that EH look into using that option
5. Membership/Associate members – JM has not rec'd any responses to the advertisement in the Metro Community News – she will run the ad again – RR suggests that a Volunteer Sign Up sheet be made available to attendees at the Night Out event

IV. MEMBERS PROJECTS – UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Oxbow Property (2805 Clinton St) — EH reports that grant award (amount - \$60,670.00) has been made by the National Fish and Wildlife Federation to W. Seneca to continue invasive species removal, repair of the outfall piping/mechanism, restoration of native vegetation work in the oxbow – W. Seneca to contribute value of property, value of volunteers' work hours as its' in-kind (50/50) portion of matching funds for the grant – EH intends to drive to, attend the Sustain Our Great Lakes awards ceremony in Detroit, Mi. on 7/29 – WSEC members voted to reimburse her travel expenses from our 2011 budget. - JO will also attend the ceremony with her.

2. Serafini Property (2735 Clinton St) – RR met with Bill Bauer (President – Edbauer Const.) on 7/21 - notified adjacent property owners on Lakeside Dr. that Mr. Bauer had agreed to discuss his intentions for the property at today's meeting, invited them to attend/participate. Also, RR met with Sarah Fleming (Ducks Unlimited) on 7/22 to assess site for potential for duck breeding, possible donation of funds from DU to purchase property – Toured parcel (and the oxbow parcel) – identified locations of Japanese knotweed removal, vegetation plantings, other activities undertaken by WSEC, Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper (BNR), other volunteers – EH spoke with Ms. Fleming - reported that she was impressed with the property and suggested a followup discussion/meeting - GR will discuss possible transfer of funds with Ms. Fleming at a later date
3. Storm Drain Stenciling – RR reports of the following stenciling activity:
 - 7/12 – purchase of paint – (cost - \$55.80 /case)
 - 7/13 – 31 storm drains stenciled on Lakeside Dr., Lakeside Ct., Blossom Rd., E. Center Rd., Sunnyside, East, Ehinger, Roosevelt
 - 7/20 – 22 storm drains stenciled on Parkside Dr., Southgate, Sunbriar, W. Willowdale
 - 7/25 - Conducted phone interview with Kim McDowell (West Seneca Bee)

Will notify members of additional dates/times for future activities
4. Sewer District 13 workshop – no report, as SM is absent
5. Library Display – JM will look into obtaining photos for the collage, as discussed at earlier meetings. EH to obtain camera for photos – RR advised that photos of storm drain stenciling activities may be available from West Seneca Bee staff.
6. Ludwig Ave. Creek Access – nothing to report
7. Leydecker Rd. Creek Access – DM has conducted 2 cleanups at site since our last meeting.

V. DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1. Edbauer Construction – to be discussed as the last item on today's agenda
2. Houghton College (810 Union Rd.) – it is anticipated that 1 building (student dormitory) will be converted into 6 apartments
3. 1200 East & West Rd. – GR spoke with Mark Kandel (NYSDEC) - he said that a portion of the property would be transferred to their agency in 2011, and that the Div. of Fish and Wildlife will manage the property – he will provide a map of the property at a later date

VI. CONTINUING PROJECTS FOR 2011

1. 1030 Orchard Park Rd – status quo since last meeting

VII. FUTURE PROJECTS

1. EH would like the WSEC to evaluate the Town's recycling & composting programs
2. EH suggests that the WSEC investigate the problem caused by the emerald ash borer to ash trees in the Town – said that the Partnership for

Regional Invasive Species Management has asked that WSEC monitor ash trees in W. Seneca

VIII. OTHER

1. Erie County sponsored events – EH sent training announcement to W. Seneca Planning Board members - Smart Growth Principles – Elma Town Hall (9/20/2011 - 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.) – accreditation will be offered for municipal zoning and planning board members
2. Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off Day – to be conducted on Sat. Aug. 20 - 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at ECC North Campus

Edbauer Construction

Bill Bauer and Ed Keleman – partners - Edbauer Construction and Clinton Street LLC – Heavy highway and bridge contractor – also represented today by Gary Bommer (William Schutt Associates)

Purchased property at 2790 Clinton St - presently constructing an office building and warehouse – expected completion date – June 1, 2012 - expected occupancy November 2011 – normal hours of operation to be from 7a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon. – Fri. – to be occupied by 7 employees on a regular basis

2735 Clinton St - purchase offer to present owner, contingent on zoning change – RR said that current zoning is R-100A, would have to be changed to C-2 - Parcel would be used for storage of equipment and materials inside and adjacent to existing blue building at site – normal hours of operation to be from 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mon – Fri. - to be staffed sporadically by 2-3 people – site only to be used as a storage and warehouse facility – will not perform manufacturing nor will it be staffed year round –

To attempt to mitigate residential neighbors concerns at 2735 Clinton St., Clinton St. LLC has hired William Schutt Associates (an engineering/consulting firm) to formulate a proposal to address concerns and to plan for future improvements to the property. One proposal mentioned by Mr. Bommer is to construct a 4' berm along the western boundary of the property line, and plant 4' pine trees on the berm, to act as a visual shield for the adjacent residential neighbors

Bill B. and Ed K. want to work with the Lakeside Dr Homeowners Association – company would like to receive a list of concerns (and possible mitigation proposals) from the residents - Gary M. to discuss with residents

Bill mentioned that the property could possibly be subdivided 3 ways - Edbauer Construction, Petals and Pines, Town - Town has already made a purchase offer to the current owner (Serafini Construction) to purchase the western portion of the property

Meeting adjourned – 8:35 P.M.