

W. SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 28, 2011

Burchfield Nature and Arts Center (BNAC)

2001 Union Road, West Seneca

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:05 P.M.

II. ATTENDANCE

Present: Evelyn Hicks (EH), Rick Rutkowski (RR), Joyce Mallette (JM),
Dave Monopolus (DM)

Absent: Sheila Meegan (SM), Jack Oshei (JO), Gary Oosterhoudt (GO),
George Rockey (GR)

Guest: Dick Olma (Substituting for Paula Olma)

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. May 2011 meeting minutes were reviewed, accepted by the commission members
2. Financial/Treasurer's report - current balance - \$2659.00 (status quo since last month)
3. Membership/Associate members – JM phoned 3 people that expressed some interest at the Springfest event) - 2 of 3 did not respond but 1 (Tim Auguglia - Boy Scout Leader – 675-0779) mentioned to JM that Boy Scouts may be interested in assisting with future projects
4. Office/Materials Storage - stuffed animals – deer have been relocated to Metz house by Tom Amoia, RR placed all smaller animals in attic of BNAC – EH has not yet obtained projector, screen, monitor, camera
5. Correspondence – none received

IV. MEMBERS PROJECTS – UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Oxbow Property (2805 Clinton St) — EH reports that, since our last meeting, the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper (BNR), along with the ECC River Academy class, inspected the site and planted trees – also, the Niagara Frontier Botanical Society toured the site on June 25.
2. EH - Serafini Property (2735 Clinton St) – EH, RR, DM, Margaret Wooster (Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper) met with Kathryn Jahn (US Fish and Wildlife Service on) 5/25 at BNAC:
 - discussed background information re: Oxbow lands;
 - reviewed historical aerial photos, maps of existing parcels;
 - discussed acquisition of southern portion (aprox. 14.5 acres) of parcel;
 - discussed plans for parcel (nature sanctuary);
 - reviewed agreement to transfer funds, make necessary changes

Site walk of Serafini Property & oxbow performed - identified desire to acquire an additional section of parcel (approx. $\frac{3}{4}$ acre – northern portion of horse pasture). EH reported that, on 6/20, the Town Board authorized Town Attorney to purchase property (as described above) using funds

previously rec'd from US Fish and Wildlife Service. Conservation easement to be incorporated into the deed for the property. A purchase offer of \$27,640.00 has been made to owner for 14.2 acres of land. RR has completed environmental assessment of property, has provided same to Town Supervisor/Board Members – no environmental issues identified to preclude purchase of parcel. WSEC will continue invasive plants removal, tree planting (as currently undertaken on adjacent oxbow parcel).

3. Storm Drain Stenciling – RR reports that response rec'd from Town approving of activity he provided draft press release to SM for review, revision as necessary - he obtained stencils from BNR, identified streets for activities (Sunnyside, E. Center, Blossom, Roosevelt, Ehinger, Miller), paint costs (\$70.80/case) – other items needed are safety vests, traffic cones (available from Highways?), wire brushes (DM offered to obtain), cardboard boxes (to prevent paint overspray), gloves, garbage bags, camera (for documentation), fliers/door hangers (for neighbor notification). WSEC members voted to approve up to \$100.00 for expected expenditures - RR will notify members of dates (7/13?, 7/20?) and times for planned activities - suggests a short meeting/stenciling activity in lieu of our next meeting (scheduled for 7/26)
3. SM – Sewer District 13 workshop – scheduled for 7/13 noon at the Senior Center – EH reported that she had received a letter from Dave Majewski advocating the implementation of Smart Growth principles in the Town, and asked RR to consider a presentation on this topic at the workshop – RR replied that this was a planning tool that he was only vaguely familiar with, and that he would discuss it with Erie County Planning staff
4. Library Display – JM will look into obtaining photos for the collage, as discussed at earlier meetings. EH to obtain camera for photos – Photos of oxbow activities should be available from BNR staff.
5. Ludwig Ave. Creek Access – nothing to report

V. DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1. Edbauer Construction – RR reports that structural work has started
2. Houghton College (810 Union Rd.) – status quo since last meeting
3. 1200 East & West Rd. – status quo since last meeting

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

Meeting adjourned – 8:28 P.M.