

W. SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011
Burchfield Nature and Arts Center (BNAC)
2001 Union Road, West Seneca

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:12 P.M.

II. ATTENDANCE

Present: Evelyn Hicks (EH), Rick Rutkowski (RR), Gary Oosterhoudt (GO), Paula Olma (PO), Joyce Mallette (JM), George Rockey (GR)
Absent: Dave Monopololus (DM), Sheila Meegan (SM), Jack Oshei (JO)
Guest: Dr. Gail Dreyer, 184 HiView Terrace, West Seneca

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. April 2011 meeting minutes were reviewed, accepted by the commission members
2. Financial/Treasurer's report
 - Current balance - \$2659.00
 - Grant funds for Arbor Day event (\$1,000.00) not yet received from NYSDEC
 - EH has received a reimbursement check (\$200.00) from Sustainable Earth Solutions for the sponsorship of the attendees to the Environmental Youth Summit. She will remit same to Town personnel for returning those funds to our 2011 budget.
 - Future expenditures – EH spoke with Tom Rennie (WNY Imaging Systems) – re: purchase of projector - he does not have that type of item on his requisition list – she will purchase the item through her employer.
3. Membership – RR mentioned that 3 people expressed some interest at the Springfest event - WSEC members discussed the need for non voting (i.e. associate) members, and decided not to make a decision on adding new members at the present time.
4. Office – stuffed animals – status quo – remain in office
5. Correspondence – none received

IV. MEMBERS PROJECTS – UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. EH - Oxbow Property (2805 Clinton St) — RR to pursue information from Nancy Smith (Aurora Open Space Committee) re: their creation of the Cazenovia Creek Nature Sanctuary (for creation of same at Oxbow)
2. EH - Serafini Property (2735 Clinton St) – EH, Margaret Wooster (Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper) to meet with Kathryn Jahn (US Fish and Wildlife Service on 5/25 @ 8 a.m. – to discuss transfer of funds (approx. \$29,000.00) from her office to T.W. Seneca for the purpose of purchasing the southern portion (approx. 14.5 acres as identified by BNR staff) of the parcel – all members invited to participate – RR has initiated an environmental assessment of this area prior to acquisition, and expects timely completion of same – GR advised that additional funds may be available from Ducks Unlimited, and will pursue same

3. RR – Storm Drain Stenciling – letter sent to Town requesting permission, response not yet received - GO, PO, JM, GR agreed to assist with project
3. SM – Sewer District 13 workshop – item tabled, as SM not present
4. JM – Library Display (Oct 2011) – discussed setting up a photo collage identifying past and present WSEC activities – members approved
5. DM – Ludwig Ave. Creek Access - item tabled, as DM not present
6. GO – Canoe Launch (570 Mineral Springs Rd) – met with EC Legislator Christina Bove – she said that no funds were available for project – WSEC members agreed that project should be indefinitely postponed –
7. GR – Oxbow Property – status quo
8. PO – Ash Tree Protection – private companies can provide this service – cost estimates - \$100.00 - \$250.00 per tree – no \$\$\$ available in the Town, WSEC budgets for this activity - WSEC members agreed that project should be indefinitely postponed

V. DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1. Edbauer Construction – (SBL 124.11-2-2) –5/7 – RR observed that adjacent creek was muddy due to site work, no silt fence where appropriate – reported to T. W. Sen. Eng. Dept., J. Gullo (Code Enforcement Officer) – silt fencing has been installed since that date
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. OTHER

1. G. Dreyer asked if grant funds or possibly other funding was available to abandon septic systems that are used by residents, and connect sanitary sewer discharges from those homes to a Town owned sanitary sewer system – EH advised that Town funds were not available at this time – suggested that Ms. Dreyer contact residents that are interested in this activity, pursue action with T. W. Seneca supervisor, Board Members

Meeting adjourned – 8:37 P.M.