

West Seneca Environmental Commission
Special Meeting Regarding the Boat Launch
November 23, 2013

Prepared By Lauren Masset

Walk Through at 502 Mineral Spring 9:00 - 10:00am
Meeting At Kiwanis Youth Center 10:00 - 11:30am

Attendance: Evelyn Hicks (EH) *Chair*, Jim Caruso (JC), Karl Spencer (KS), Lauren Masset (LM)
Special Guests: Jeff Pittner, Matt Amoia

MEETING MINUTES:

Photographs taken by EH attached.

After a brief walk through of the 502 Mineral Springs Road....

EH officially introduces JC, KS, LM, to Jeff Pittner an Environmental Engineer & Matt Amoia a student at SUNY Erie Community College.

EH states we are here today because many years ago a former council member secured a grant for \$50,000 for a boat launch at the Mineral Springs site. The idea was to have a motorized boat launch, it never really went anywhere. EH shows the group photos of knotweed on the site. The original idea never had worked out, however the money is still available.

EH questions if the road what road? which was previously built gives access to the area. JC answers that it is most likely inaccessible. Pittner personal opinion is that after the walk through, the site will be too hard to access - Questioning is there another site? EH explains there is really no other site and she makes mention of the already built DEC site on Harlem Rd. However a concern is that it will be too hard to retrofit for handicap access. Pittner questions if there was a SEQR done on the site. EH says that no plans are in place that's why we are here today.

While reviewing a map EH explains the plan for the site (ie: road, parking, trails, launch, etc...) also pointing out the National Fuel remediation site. JC indicates that we did see a National Fuel pipeline marker during the walk through, and indicates where it is on the map. EH describes the boat launch at Mutual Park, which is an ideal model for the Mineral Spring boat launch.

Pinter explains \$50,000 isn't a lot, EH agrees but this is the first step toward the project. EH states this is a multiphase project. Pinter & EH discuss if the site is a wetland, or not. Pittner suggests using some of the money for testing, EH answers with the money in the current grant can only be used for "bricks & mortar".

Discussion about the current half road is discussed, EH states that Matt English does not want

the public near there. The members present agree that the public shouldn't be near the transfer station. EH questions where the machine, and composting are. JC shows on the map where about it was seen during the walk through. EH states a survey is needed from where National Fuel Gas easement is between the border line with Oak Grove.

KS questions the effect this will have on the deer population, EH answers that a natural border would be placed for the animals which live in area. During the walk through many animal dens were noticed, a 6-8 chain link fence would not be acceptable.

After discussion of the trees in the area, EH states the road will need to curve to save the older larger trees.

The distance from the river to the road is about 1800 feet The road would be straight, parking on the sides, with a turn around at the end.

Pittner questions what the towns reaction to the public launching after a storm in high water. EH answers that there are many sites along the area such as Seneca Bluffs, the problem is at the Oxbow where the sills are.

KS states the next step is a survey, and how are we going to pay for it. JC agrees that a survey does need to be done, in order to move into another phase. EH states we need to make an investment in the survey, to find another grant who will make a match in future grants.

Pittner questions how much of this work can be done in house, EH replies that we are working to figure that out. Pittner question what type of survey we need, JC says topography and property. EH states we need a property survey, an easement, and a title search to learn who owns the easements. EH wonders if National Fuel would do the survey, stating they do have money to do projects with them being a taxpayer in West Seneca they have vested interest. KS mentions perhaps councilman-elect Bill Hanley may be able to help us, EH will reach out.

Pittner suggests reaching out to National Fuel to see if they already have a survey done, along the Buffalo River. EH states perhaps then they could send their staker out, to stake the area. JC suggests also asking Hanley if there is any other pipelines on the property. Pinter states there are two pipelines there, National Fuel, and Petroleum.

EH will also call Army Corps of Engineers, and New York State Office of Parks & Recreation Historic Preservation.

EH reminds the group this is a low impact project - this will not be plowed, safety mowing only, no street lights, open from dawn to dusk only. For now 12 parking spots, maybe 15 would be good. Pittner will look into the ratio of handicap to regular parking spots. JC mentions on the road built John Gullo may have all the answers in regards to the evaluation of emergency vehicles access. Pittner will look into the parking spots, road, etc... EH will find out the file type of the

map, and forward it to Pittner.
JC thanked Pittner for attending today.

Meeting Close: 11:17am

On December 3rd the WSEC discussed the following:

EH reports after the meeting, she did contact Councilman Elect William Hanley, about the "Search & Survey" from National Fuel Gas. Also EH spoke with Matt English, who said that in order to properly put a road back there you would have to take down a majority of the trees. EH reports this will be a huge project, and a lot of money to cut a road back to the access point. EH does not think this site is suitable. We do have a \$50,000 state grant, the money will not be best spent at that site.

These notes will serve as a summary of our findings represents the work which was done on 11/23/13 a consensus is made.

