

W. SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2016 at 7:00 PM

Burchfield Nature & Art Center – 2001 Union Rd., West Seneca

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:04 p.m.

II. ATTENDANCE

Members: Evelyn Hicks (EH), Chair, Rick Rutkowski (RR), Vice-Chair, Karl Spencer (KS), Dave Monopolopolus (DM), Jim Caruso (JC), Lauren Masset (LM), Mike Wass (MW), Matthew Roche (MR)

Absent/Excused: Camie Jarrell (CJ)

Associate Members: Richard Corbetta (RC), Emily Baker (EB), Matt Poole (MP)

West Seneca Town Board Liaison: Gene Hart (GH), Bill Hanley (BH)

Guest: Amy Kobler

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Meeting Minutes – May, June, July, Aug, Sept. 2016 - no action – EH will collaborate with RR to prepare same – after discussion, members agreed that our scheduled Dec. meeting would be changed to Nov 29
2. 2016 Budget –WSEC budget balance - \$1,190.17
National Fish and Wildlife Federation - \$2,710.96
US Fish & Wildlife Service - \$28,310.00
- EH would like to use the WSEC budget to pay for the cost of the 2735 Clinton St. survey (\$690.00) instead of using US Fish & Wildlife Service funds. After discussion, RR motions to rescind the previous motion to use US Fish & Wildlife Service funds for the survey expenditure and initiates a motion to use the WSEC funds for that purpose (seconded by JC) – approved
- RR submitted voucher for \$69.09 (for rain barrel and storm drain medallion materials) to Town –
- DM to investigate use of remaining funds (\$259.17) to repair stuffed animals
- KS motion to accept the updated budget, seconded by DM, approved
3. Correspondence – none
4. Office – status quo
5. 2015 Annual Report – no action

IV. WSEC PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Oxbow (2805 Clinton St.) – Bernie Clabeaux (professor -Buffalo State College - Environmental Science) toured the property with students on 10/21 - RR suggests creating/installing signage to prohibit trespassing on the property.
2. 2735 Clinton St. – The town is trying to purchase a portion (8.68 acres) of this property. A purchase offer has been submitted to the property owners, which has not yet been accepted. – CJ has drafted letter to notify NYSDEC of decrease in water level change due to replacement of the oxbow outlet pipe (work performed in August), but Town has not sent letter - EH will ask Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper to notify NYSDEC.
3. Subcommittee reports:

- Tree Issues Subcommittee – assistance is needed to create documents for the new handouts for the Tree Ordinance. Interested parties should contact EH or KS
 - Creek Awareness Subcommittee –status quo
 - Water Quality Issues Subcommittee:
 - Canoe/Kayak launch site (880 Harlem Rd.) – RR sent e-mail to Brian Kirby (NYSDOT) – he advises that construction has been completed – RR will take photos of launch site, will e-mail to members
 - Storm drain marking program – purchase of medallions initiated for application in 2017 by EH
 - Rain Barrel distribution program – status quo
 - Municipal Rain Barrels - all rain barrels/signage at BNAC, Library, & Children’s Memorial Park have been emptied, stored for winter
to Town for review
4. 2017 Projects – discussion among members resulted in the following:
- possible development of public outreach of WSEC activities to residents during 2016 BNAC events;
 - development of a powerpoint presentation pertaining to the Tree Ordinance as outreach for developers (KS to make presentation to W. S. Chamber of Commerce - 1/19/16);
 - Earth Day - creek clean up event (April 22);
 - fabrication/distribution of rain barrels to residents;
 - acquisition of 2735 Clinton St. parcel by Town;
 - downspout disconnect program for residential homes;
 - library display and presentations;
 - participation at National Night Out (Aug. 2).

V. OTHER PROJECTS

1. National Grid Project - Andy Smith (Engineer) advises that they have developed a concept plan for the viewing platform at the Meyer Rd. wetlands - Costs have been calculated for same, and they intend to review their financial contribution to the Town with Town Board members in the future.

VI. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC - None

Next meeting – Nov. 29

Meeting adjourned –8:25 p.m.