

W. SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 27, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Christian Metz Home – 12 School St., West Seneca

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 P.M.

II. ATTENDANCE

Evelyn Hicks (EH) Chair, Rick Rutkowski (RR) Vice-Chair, Jim Caruso (JC), Mike Wass (MW), Karl Spencer (KS), Camie Jarrell (CJ), Lauren Masset (LM), Emily Baker (EB), Amy Kobler (AK), Matt Poole (MP)

Excused: Dave Monopolus (DM), Matthew Roche (MR)

Guest: Francis Marrano

West Seneca Town Board member: Bill Hanley (BH)

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Meeting Minutes – May. 2017 – minor revision to minutes, accepted & approved by members
2. 2017 WSEC Budget – \$1500.00
Town Environmental funds:
 - National Fish and Wildlife Federation - \$2,710.96
 - US Fish & Wildlife Service - \$29,000.00Minor revision to budget, accepted & approved by members
3. Correspondence – status/update letter received from National Grid (see below) re: status of construction at Gardenville station - circulated to members, and filed
4. Office – will be moved to 12 School St. – EH reports that 2nd floor will be available for our use after improvements (by Town) are completed
5. 2015, 2016 Annual Reports – EH requested that LM, EB, and AK assist her with completion of reports

IV. WSEC PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Oxbow (2805 Clinton St.) – JC, RR installed 4 wood duck nesting boxes on trees near the water on 6/4/17- (photos of same shared with members) – RR would like members to consider developing a plan for the site — EH said that there is an existing plan for the parcel.
2. 2735 Clinton St. – status quo
3. Standing Subcommittee reports:
 - Tree Issues Subcommittee – KS attended June 8 Planning Board meeting to monitor discussions concerning development for compliance with Tree Ordinance (see 162 Slade Ave below)
 - Creek Awareness Subcommittee – status quo
 - By-Laws Subcommittee –JC reports that meeting to discuss bylaw revision #3 was conducted June 1, revision #4 produced
 - Water Quality Issues Subcommittee:
 - Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Launch – 880 Harlem Rd. - RR reports that site is available to the public for use
 - Rain Barrels – status quo
 - Municipal Rain Barrels – RR will speak with Carol Yetter to determine viability of siting barrels at the Burchfield Nature & Art Center.
 - Storm Drain Marking – RR obtained “letter of permission” to mark drains from Town Engineering Dept.

V. 2017 MEMBER PROJECTS

1. Student Recycling after Sporting Events –EB advised that she will initiate activities in Fall 2017 pertaining to recycling
2. Prescription Drug Drop Off – tabled indefinitely
3. Public Outreach & Education re: Household Recycling – AK suggested that the WSEC initiate a FACEBOOK page in order to educate the public – members discussed and agreed, limiting contents of the page to information that has been posted on the Town's website. AK also mentioned participation with Erie County as pertains to their annual rain barrel painting contest, and she will follow up with Erie County staff. LM and EB said rain barrel painting will be a viable activity for their Youth Engaged in Service program in 2018. JC, RR agreed to assist.
4. Railroad property/rails to trails – W. Sen. Town Attorney advised that the Town of West Seneca is not interested in pursuing acquisition of abandoned rail lines for use as a walking/biking trail. Currently, it is unclear who owns/pays taxes/maintains abandoned railroad property.

VI. OTHER PROJECTS

1. Croglio Subdivision - EH advised that WSEC received the tree survey and landscape plan. Plans were approved and sent to the W. Sen. Planning Board. No further action.
2. 162 Slade Ave. KS discussed the Landscape and Tree plan for the project with Town Attorney John Fenz at the June 8 Planning Board meeting. Question about a significant tree on the parcel – no action by WSEC.
3. National Night Out (Aug.1) – CJ reminded members to prepare for the event – stuffed animals to be displayed - RR will bring a rain barrel to “raffle off”, and will check with Mary Rossi (Erie County) to see if she will participate.

VII. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC

1. Deer control – status quo

Next meeting – July 25, 2017

Adjourned – 8:25



June 15, 2017

Gardenville Station Rebuild Project:
Information Regarding Construction Activities

Dear Neighbor:

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (d/b/a "National Grid") notified you previously of the plans to rebuild and upgrade of the longstanding Gardenville Station, located on Indian Church Road in the Town of West Seneca. The project's purpose is to bolster the continued provision of safe, reliable electric service to our customers, and meet the area's increasing energy demands.

Our construction activities began in mid-October 2016, and construction is on track to be completed in fall 2019. We have a busy summer and fall ahead and wanted to send a notice providing you an update on construction activities.

Milestones update:

- Substation tree clearing: Complete
- Substation foundations: 85% complete, completion expected by the end of summer 2017
- Substation control house: Under construction, completion expected by October 2017
- Transmission line structures: 19 out of 48 structures are installed, and 23 out of 48 foundations are installed. The remaining foundations and structures will be installed by late fall 2017.
- Substation grading: Majority will be completed early fall 2017
- Grading restoration work around the substation perimeter: Will take place in spring 2018
- Station Energization: Fall 2018, with all transmission lines in place in the fall of 2019
- Final completion: Late fall 2019

National Grid is committed to the safety of its crews, contractors and customers. In that regard, we kindly ask that you avoid entering the station property or rights-of-way during construction, and be mindful of construction workers and traffic in the area. If you would like more information on the project, please e-mail me at the address below or call me at (315) 428-6405.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Sayre".

Susan Sayre
Stakeholder Relations Manager, National Grid
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