

W. SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Union Fire Co. – 2055 Union Rd., West Seneca

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 p.m.

II. ATTENDANCE

Evelyn Hicks (EH), Chair, Rick Rutkowski (RR), Vice-Chair, Dave Monolopolus (DM), Jim Caruso (JC), Lauren Masset (LM), Mike Wass (MW), Camie Jarrell (CJ)

Associate Members: Emily Baker (EB), Matt Poole (MP), Jack Oshei (JO), Amy Kobler (AK)

Absent/Excused: Karl Spencer, Richard Corbetta, Matthew Roche

Guest: Hannah Jacob

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

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Meeting Minutes – May, June, July, Aug, Sept., Oct., Nov. 2016 - approved
2. 2017 Budget allocation – \$1500.00
Remaining Funds:
 - National Fish and Wildlife Federation - \$2,710.96
 - US Fish & Wildlife Service - \$29,000.00
3. Correspondence - none
4. Office – structural problems at the Burchfield Nature and Arts Center – building is closed – Feb. WSEC meeting to be conducted at Union Fire Co.
5. 2015, 2016 Annual Reports – Draft Water Quality Issues Subcommittee report prepared by RR, sent to members for review
6. Reappointments to WSEC:
 - 2 year term effective January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018:
Evelyn Hicks (chair) James Caruso, Richard Rutkowski, Karl Spencer,
Michael Wass
 - 1 year term effective January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017:
Camie Jarrell P.E., Lauren Masset, Dave Monolopolus
 - Youth – 1 year term effective January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017
Matthew Roche
 - Associate Members - Emily Baker, Richard Corbetta, Amy Kobler,
Matt D. Poole

IV. WSEC PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Oxbow (2805 Clinton St.) – status quo
2. 2735 Clinton St. – Status quo
3. Subcommittee reports:
 - Tree Issues Subcommittee – KS reports re: 1/12/17 Planning Board meeting - Croglia subdivision approved, contingent that they provide a Landscape and Tree Plan to WSEC – RR suggests that the Tree Issues Subcommittee be tasked to review this issue.
 - Creek Awareness Subcommittee - no report
 - Water Quality Issues Subcommittee:

- Canoe/Kayak launch site (880 Harlem Rd.) – 12/6/16 - draft press release sent to NYSDOT by RR
- Storm drain marking program – no report
- Rain Barrel distribution program – no report
- Municipal Rain Barrels – no report

V. POSSIBLE 2017 PROJECTS

1. 2016 Urban and Community Forestry Grants Program – RR provided verbal summary of program – GH advised that T./ W Seneca expects to apply (via Town grant writer Connie Miner) for the Tree Planting
2. Gov Cuomo budget request to protect the environment – RR advised that \$400 million has been proposed for the **Clean Water Infrastructure Act** (if funded) – he will advise W. Seneca if funds become available
3. Member Initiatives:
 - RR proposes review/update of By-Laws – discussion ensues - JC agrees to lead the Administrative Subcommittee – EH will provide a WORD copy of the By-Laws to JC
 - EH proposes a “Creek Corridor” along Buffalo Creek (between Harlem Rd. & Union Rd), and has discussed same with the WNY Land Conservancy staff
 - EB proposes to work with Youth Engaged in Services to collect and recycle beverage containers after sporting events (MP offers to assist with this initiative)
 - JO proposes an education initiative (presentations to the community) pertaining to environmental issues
 - DM will initiate an attempt to find a taxidermist to repair our stuffed animals
 - RR will fulfill a request from a member of the Girl Scouts of America for a presentation pertaining to WSEC activities

VI. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC

1. EH advises that National Grid will build a “viewing platform” for the public at the New York State Freshwater Protected Wetlands (adjacent to Meyer Rd) after the Gardenville Electric Station is upgraded – (probably in 2019)
2. BH advises that, in lieu of the problems at the BNAC, the WSEC offices will be moved to the Metz house (Union Rd.) in the near future
3. BH advises that the Town has received a proposal from a developer to build a “Solar-grid” at the Town Campus (1250 Union Rd.)
4. GH has received a request from the Town Police help address the deer control issue, and suggests that the WSEC undertake a study to assist – RR suggests that informing the Town residents of types of deer resistant plants/flowers that can be planted in gardens would be a better method of addressing this problem
5. EH asks if members have any interest in attending the Erie County Water Quality Committee meetings (conducted monthly)

Meeting Adjourned - 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting – Feb.28, 2017