

WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 7:00 PM

West Seneca Community Center – 1300 Union Rd., West Seneca

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 p.m.

II. ATTENDANCE

Evelyn Hicks (EH) Chair, Rick Rutkowski (RR) Vice-Chair, Mike Wass (MW),  
Lauren Masset (LM), Emily Baker (EB), Tracy Skalski (TS)

Excused/Absent: Camie Jarrell (CJ), Andrew Beehler (AB)

Town Council: Bill Hanley (BH), Gary Dickson (GD), Jeff Piekarec (JP),

Guest: Amy Weymouth (Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council)

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Meeting Minutes – November 2019 – tabled – January 2020 – approved and accepted
2. Financial Report – MW reports that budget amounts are as follows:
  - 2019 WSEC Working Budget – \$1500.00
  - Town Environmental funds:
    - National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF) - \$2,710.76
    - US Fish & Wildlife Service - \$29,000.00
    - National Grid Mitigation Fund - \$61,000.00
3. Correspondence – EH reports that an e-mail was rec'd from Stantec (National grid Consultant they will send construction design plans for a habitat viewing stand to the Town (proposed to be constructed at the Meyer Rd. wetland) – TS reports that the W. Seneca Rotary Club requests a presentation from the WSEC – EH, LM to provide (5/13/20)
4. 2015, 2018, 2019 Annual Reports – EH reports that they are not yet completed
5. Documentation of WSEC activities – RR suggests that members consider documenting tasks/activities/goals to assist him with completion of meeting minutes, and to assist with recordkeeping and completion of Annual Reports – brief discussion ensues, and members agree – TS and LM will initiate/organize this “work in progress” document - will send to members for review/consideration
6. Members – RR reports that the appointments of 4 members (RR, MW, EB, LM) will expire 12/31/2020 - EH reports that WSEC member Karl Spencer has resigned, and would like a current member to “volunteer” to attend Erie County Environmental Management Council meetings EH to write a letter to Karl thanking him for his service as a member – RR suggests that Don Stribick would be an asset to the WSEC (if he were to consider an appointment to same) - members agree – RR will contact him

IV. WSEC PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Oxbow (2805 Clinton St.) – EH hopes that a habitat viewing stand could be constructed at the wetlands at the site in the future
2. Standing Subcommittee reports:
  - Tree Issues Subcommittee – no report
  - Creek Awareness Subcommittee – EH advised (via 2/22 e-mail) that the PowerPoint needs to be updated, and LM has initiated that activity – MW advised (via e-mail) that he sent the flyer for the program to W. Sen. Central School District superintendent and to the library – discussion ensues - TS reports that she has produced the “Eventbright” for the program. – Members approve expenditure (not to exceed \$200.00) for food for the 4/2 presentation - also, the

Know Your Backyard video will be shown at the W. Seneca Library on March 11, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

- Education Subcommittee:
  - Deer Management – position paper – status quo
  - Deer Management - educational materials – RR will obtain topical reference information (also for “flowers for pollinators”)
  - Environmental Corner in Local Media - TS has facilitated the creation of an “Environmental Corner” on Town website
- Water Quality Issues Subcommittee:
  - Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Launch – 880 Harlem Rd. – RR will contact Assemblyman Burke and Senator Gallivan to discuss possible improvements at the site
  - Residential Rain Barrels – program discontinued until Spring 2020
  - Municipal Rain Barrels – program discontinued until Spring 2020
  - 2019 WQI Accomplishments – RR has sent to Town Board so that activities can be included in the Town’s Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Annual Report for 2019.

## V. TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1. 945 Center Rd – (proposed 32 residential units development) - W. Sen. Planning Board sent EH a “site plan” document to EH, and requested her opinion – her opinion is the “site plan” is incomplete, and that the developer should hire an arborist to produce a better plan – member discussion re: whether the Tree Ordinance should be modified, and wonder if the Town is amenable

## VI. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC

1. Buffalo Creek Flood Mitigation Study – EH has sent document to members for review – Supervisor Dickson briefly mentioned the options provided in the document – EH questioned whether the Canisius H.S. Board members were aware that options could affect their (3) parcels located on Clinton St. - Town Board will contact Canisius re: their plans for the properties
2. Creation of W. Seneca Bike Master Plan Committee - Amy Weymouth provided information (including maps pertaining to the Regional Bicycle Master Plan) to attendees, and her role in assisting W. Seneca, should there be interest in developing a local Bike Master Plan Bike discussion and questions ensue, with no decisions made.

Adjourned – 8:58 p.m.