

WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 7:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 p.m.

I. ATTENDANCE

Evelyn Hicks (EH) Chair, Rick Rutkowski (RR) Vice-Chair, Tracy Skalski (TS),
Jacqueline Balikowski (JB) – (No quorum)

Excused/Absent: Cynn timer Gaasch (CG), Mike Wass (MW), Lauren Masset (LM),
Emily Masset (EM), Andrew Beehler

Guest: Nancy Delmonte

II. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Meeting Minutes — September 2021 - tabled
2. Financial Report – as per EH:
 - 2020 WSEC Working Budget –\$1226.93
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 – None
4. 2015, 2018, 2019, 2020 Annual Reports – status quo - (need completion, submittal to Town)
5. Planning for 2022 – meeting dates, project planning, work activities:
 - schedule of meeting dates discussed and finalized.
 - EH would like to ID undeveloped parcels owned by W. Seneca for preservation purposes, and request that the Town incorporate deed restrictions into parcel deeds to maintain “open spaces”. TS will research Erie County reference materials (i.e. Geographic Information Systems mapping program) and/or speak with EC staff to assist in this effort.
 - TS would like W. Seneca to participate in Erie County’s Community Climate Action Planning (CCAP) program. County is seeking feedback from community members and involvement in development of the plan. TS discussed a potential ‘climate action’ community meeting in the spring/early summer highlighting all projects of the WSEC and the connection to climate change, while allowing the community members to be involved in the CCAP process.
 - TS would like W Seneca to participate in the Climate Smart Communities program - Discussions ensued re: how West Seneca can complete the necessary actions to become a certified Climate Smart Community. TS to look into assistance from the state in early 2022.
 - RR will provide replacement (as necessary) of storm drain medallions along Town streets

III. WSEC PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Oxbow (2805 Clinton St.) – Brush clearing and removal (~ 50' x 450') performed by Asplundh Tree Services along Buckeye Partners petroleum pipeline easement – Also, RR seeded property with ~ 300 walnut seeds
2. Standing Subcommittee reports:

- Tree Issues Subcommittee – as per MW: contrary to the advice/recommendation of the WSEC, it appears the Town will allow Young Development to plant the required trees at 3 Town parks in the Spring of 2022
- Creek Awareness Subcommittee – no activity - discussions re: possible spring activity at band shell, or try to show “Creek Awareness” presentation at schools.
- Education Subcommittee:
 - Environmental Corner – TS has posted information re: recycling days, storm drain project, and will add a link to the W. Sen. Deer Task Force.
 - TS will post information, photos re: the Meyer Rd. wetlands viewing platform on Facebook, will solicit interested parties to participate in WSEC activities.
 - TS to post openings on WSEC for interested members (associated and appointed) to send letters of interest and/or resumes.
 - Other – one page “did you know”? articles – RR working on deer foraging, downspout disconnect topics
- Water Quality Issues Subcommittee:
 - Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Launch – 880 Harlem Rd. – no activity
 - Residential Rain Barrels – no activity
 - Municipal Rain Barrels – 10/9 - RR emptied BNAC rain barrel, stored for winter
 - Storm Drain Marking – no activity
- 3. New WSEC Grant opportunities – WSEC will work with the Friends of the Burchfield Nature and Art Center to improve the Amphitheater at the site

IV. TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1. 2885 Clinton St – (proposed ballfields (Canisius High School) – status quo

V. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC:

1. Town Deer Task Force – meetings ongoing, no new info
2. Biking in W. Seneca – Route 16 bike lane project abandoned by Town Board due to (physical) road lane restrictions, cost of project

Adjourned – 8:14 p.m.