

DRAFT

WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 7:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER – 7:05 p.m.

I. ATTENDANCE

Evelyn Hicks (EH) Chair, Rick Rutkowski (RR) Vice-Chair, Cynn timer Gaasch (CG), Tracy Skalski (TS), Jacqueline Balikowski (JB), Patrick Healy (PH)
Guests: Nancy DelMonte (WSEC assoc. member), Chris Holmes

II. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Meeting Minutes — March 2022 - approved by members
2. Financial Report – as per EH (all funds verified via W.S. Finance Dept.):
 - 2022 WSEC Working Budget – \$1000.00
 - 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 - none
4. 2015, 2018, 2019, 2020 Annual Reports – 4/1 - RR sent 2017, 2021 edits of draft Annual Reports to EH – reports accepted by members, will be sent by EH to Town
5. Membership – 3 vacancies exist on WSEC –
6. Recordkeeping – EH spoke with G. Dickson re: possible use of W. Sen. staff to attend/document monthly meeting minutes, create Annual Reports.

III. WSEC PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Oxbow (2805 Clinton St.) – RR notified M Gaston (ECSWCD) of damaged sign along N. side of creek bank – on 3/30, RR met w/Town Board members G. Dickson, S. Kims to discuss proposal for creation of W. Seneca Nature Sanctuary – both seemed receptive to same, and RR will prepare a letter to Town Board
2. Standing Subcommittee reports:
 - Tree Issues Subcommittee – CG offered to lead this subcommittee
 - Education Subcommittee:
 - Environmental Corner – TS emailed A. Greenan (3/25) requested that she remove deer survey, and install Earth Day challenge information - no response rec'd - After discussion, EH will speak with J. Piecarek to determine if he will assist with getting articles posted to the Env. Corner – other topics being developed for the website:
 - Downspout Disconnect from Residences (RR) - in progress
 - Butterfly Friendly Homes (RR) – in progress
 - Reducing Pesticide Use at Residences (TS)
 - Recycling Best Management Practices (TS, CG)
 - Creek Awareness and Safety – 3/26 - RR sent edits of powerpoint presentation to EH, will collaborate with N. DelMonte to finalize, and she will send to members for review
 - Water Quality Issues Subcommittee:
 - Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Launch – 880 Harlem Rd. – status quo
 - Residential Rain Barrels – RR intends to distribute remaining rain barrels to W. Seneca Garden Club members

- Municipal Rain Barrels – no implementation this year, due to ongoing repair work at building
 - Storm Drain Marking – 3/30 - RR met with B Adams (Hwys.) re: maintenance (replacing missing medallions – Adams advised that his staff will replace missing medallions -- RR provided medallion installation info. to B. Adams for future maintenance by Hwys. personnel.
3. New WSEC Grant opportunities – Katherine Winkler (Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper) provided summary of Buffalo Creek flood mitigation program at 3/28 TB meeting - EH advises that consultant (Ramboll) has been selected – EH will facilitate meeting between WSEC, Town grant writer

IV. TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1. 889 Indian Church Rd – (NYSEG Substation) – 3/30 - RR reviewed site plans, SEQR application for project (no environmental issues evident)
2. Electric Vehicle infrastructure – TS feels that installation in W. Seneca should be discussed with Town personnel – EH advises that she will speak with B. Adams

V. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC:

1. April 23 – 10-noon - Creek Cleanup program – Buffalo creek @ BNAC, Cazenovia creek at Ridge & Orchard Park Rds.(WSEC members participating were ND, PH, and TS (children)
2. Biking in W. Seneca – C. Holmes advises that NYSDEC Land Manager (Eric Meringer 716-372-0645) is receptive to biking along public trails in WNY - TS reports that discussions are ongoing re: proper approach to gain access to trails and for maintenance by bike groups
3. Town Deer Task Force – CG reports that final report is being prepared – will be shared with the public by May 15 - a presentation will be made to the Town Board (with public comment) on June 15 – TS feels that public education re: not feeding deer is necessary

Adjourned – 8:44 p.m.