

WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 7:00 PM

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

I. ATTENDANCE:

Evelyn Hicks (EH) Chair, Rick Rutkowski (RR) Vice-Chair, Jacqueline Balikowski (JB), Patrick Healy (PH)

Absent/Excused: Cynn timer Gaasch, Tracy Skalski

Town Council Liason: Jeff Piekarec (JP)

Guest: Danielle Bagley

II. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Meeting Minutes — April 2022 - tabled (no quorum)
2. Financial Report –
 - 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:
 - EH rec'd invitation to participate in National Night Out event (8/2/22) at BOCES - 355 Harlem Rd. – WSEC will participate
 - EH rec'd a request from NYSDEC for stakeholder participation in their project: Smokes Creek Habitat Connectivity & Improvement Opportunity Assessment
4. 2015, 2018, 2019, 2020 Annual Reports – status quo
5. Membership – 3 vacancies exist on WSEC (M. Wass resigned) – D. Bagley submitted application for WSEC membership to Town

III. WSEC PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Oxbow (2805 Clinton St.) – RR e-mailed draft letter re: Proposed Nature Sanctuary to members, comments rec'd were incorporated into ltr. (will be sent to Town) – also, to help the Monarch butterfly, milkweed seeds should be planted in fall – D. Bagley mentioned that Northridge Nurseries would like to assist with planting a butterfly garden – discussion ensued, and members agree that the best place for a butterfly garden would be at a Town Park
2. Standing Subcommittee reports:
 - Tree Issues Subcommittee – CG will facilitate monitoring of new trees which have been planted (as per Young Development /T. W. Sen lawsuit)
 - Water Quality Issues Subcommittee:
 - Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Launch – 880 Harlem Rd. – D Bagley called DEC re: potential construction by volunteers at site – no response
 - Residential Rain Barrels – 6 distributed (with maintenance instructions) to W. Seneca residents affiliated with the Amana Garden club
 - Storm Drain Marking – RR provided 60 medallions, 3 tubes adhesive to Highway Dept. (to replace missing medallions)
 - Education Subcommittee:
 - Environmental Corner –
 - Downspout Disconnect from Residences – 5/21 - RR e-mailed article to TS
 - Bees/Butterflies/Pollinators – RR e-mailed article to members for comments
 - Reducing Pesticide Use at Residences - status quo
 - Recycling Best Management Practices – status quo
 - Creek Awareness and Safety – status quo

IV. TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1. Canisius HS Athletic Field (Clinton St.) – new SEQRA submitted to Town for distribution to/comments from “interested parties” –discussion ensued – EH believes that segmentation has occurred (which is “not legal”) and will prepare a response which will be submitted to the Town

V. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC

1. NYSDEC – as per CG, new Regional Director appointed (Julie Barrett O’Neill)
2. Buffalo Creek Flood Mitigation in W. Seneca - contract awarded to Ramboll - project timeframe – 6 months – kickoff meeting for the grant will be June 15

Adjourned – 7:55 p.m.