WEST SENECA COMMUNITY CENTER 1300 Union Road West Seneca, NY 14224

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION Meeting Minutes February 5, 2024

ROLL CALL:

Members Present - Robert Amadon, Chairperson

Danielle Bagley Thomas Mudd, Jr. Ryan Taylor

Councilmember Scott Robertson

Absent - Michael Beltz

Evelyn Hicks

Associate members present: Brittany Hernon

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Chairperson Amadon introduced new commission member Thomas Mudd and new Town Board liaison Councilmember Robertson.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion by Ms. Bagley, seconded by Mr. Mudd, to approve the Meeting Minutes of October 16, 2023.

Ayes: All Noes: None Motion Carried

2024 MEETING SCHEDULE

Chairperson Amadon confirmed there were no scheduling issuses with commission members. The work sessions will allow the commission to make progress on strategic planning.

ANNUAL DISLCOSURE FORM

Chairperson Amadon reminded commisssion members to complete the annual disclosure form required by appointed persons.

ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC

No comments were received.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chairperson Amadon confirmed there was no correspondence received by the Environmental Commission.

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

Chairpeson Amadon stated the March 18th and May 13th work sessions will be used to review and complete the strategic plan started by the commission in October 2022.

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ONGOING COMMISSION PROJECTS

Bikes

Chairperson Amadon requested Councilmember Robertson follow up with the Town Board on the status of the letter from West Seneca Bikes that was forwarded to the Town Board in March of 2023. Councilmember Robertson stated he will investigate this item. Ms. Bagley will forward a copy of the letter to Councilmember Robertson and all commission members.

Trees

Chairperson Amadon stated the town was awarded a grant from the NYSDEC to conduct a tree inventory and create an urban forestry management plan and noted West Seneca was the only town in Erie County to receive this grant. Within the grant the Environmental Commission was identified as a partner with the town to assist with public outreach and education throughout the project implementation and a sub-committee should be formed to support this activity.

Chairperson Amadon stated the following are steps of the project:

- ✓ Selection of a tree company to perform the tree inventory of trees in town parks and rights-of-way on town owned streets
- ✓ Determination of type, location, and state of the trees
- ✓ Identification of locations for replacement of trees
- ✓ Kickoff meeting with all involved parties and public awareness
- ✓ NYSDEC will conduct an inspection to verify the accuracy of the inventory
- ✓ Develop an urban forestry management plan

Ms. Bagley questioned the timeframe for the project. Chairperson Amadon stated he believes the project could take two years to complete. Ms. Bagley questioned who selects the tree company. Chairperson Amadon stated the town will select the company and a few estimates were obtained during the application process, but additional quotes may be needed.

Mr. Taylor, Ms. Bagley, and Mr. Mudd volunteered for the sub-committee. Chairperson Amadon stated the town needs an updated list of trees to choose from and questioned if the sub-committee would take this task on. Mr. Mudd stated when investigating trees approved to plant on his property, he was given a list of four species noting none of the trees are native to this area and one is considered semi-invasive. The list provided by Ms. Hernon provides a good start for the commission. (List attached for reference.)

Education

Chairperson Amadon stated there are no new items.

Waterways

Chairperson Amadon stated Ms. Hicks is not present to provide any updates but questioned the status of the order of storm drain medallions. Councilmember Robertson stated he will follow up on this item.

Community Needs and Interests

Chairperson Amadon stated he will forward an email from Ms. Hicks to the committee members regarding orders for coniferous trees. Ms. Bagley questioned if this program was through NYS. Chairperson Amadon confirmed that it is.

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GOVERNANCE

Chairperson Amadon stated there are currently four openings on the Environmental Commission and one must be a youth member.

Chairperson Amadon stated establishing a Treasurer/Financial Secretary and discussing financial reports will be held until the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Bagley stated the Environmental Commission should be made aware of the composting program sponsored by the town and questioned the status. Additionally, Ms. Bagley suggested a commission member should be present at a table during the Farmers Market with produce.

West Seneca resident Barbara Lipew stated N.E.S.T., Northeast Sold Waste Management of Erie County, is offering subsidizing for backyard composting. Councilmember Robertson questioned if this program is part of the Farmer Pirates program. Ms. Lipew stated it is not, the Farmer Pirates collect the waste and compost it at their own site. Councilmember Robertson stated N.E.S.T. could complete the application process to participate at the Farmers Market, also. Ms. Hernon stated the Farmer Pirates' pilot program is underway and the town has paid for the program for this year.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Mudd, seconded by Ms. Bagley, to adjourn the meeting at 7 P.M.

Ayes: All Noes: None Motion Carried

Margaret A. Martin

Deputy Town Clerk/Secretary to the Environmental Commission

Native, Small Trees (<30')

Scientific Name

Common Name

Prunus virginiana

Chokecherry

Cercis canadensis

Eastern Redbud

Amelanchier laevis Comus florida

Allegheny Serviceberry

Flowering Dogwood

Carpinus caroliniana Amelanchier arborea

American Hornbeam

Common Serviceberry

Crataegus spp.

Hawthorn

Native, Large Trees (>30')

Scientific Name

Common Name

Celtis occidentalis

Northern Hackberry

Acer rubrum

Red Maple...and several other maples

Ostrya virginiana

American Hop-Hornbeam

Quercus spp.

Swamp White, Scarlet, Bur, Black, White, Chestnut (Oaks)

Tilia americana

American Basswood

Nyssa sylvatica

Blackgum

Liriodendron tulipfera

Tulip Tree