

WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at 7:00 PM

Christian Metz Home – 12 School St., West Seneca

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:04 p.m.

II. ATTENDANCE

Evelyn Hicks, Chair, Rick Rutkowski (RR) Vice-Chair, Mike Wass (MW), Lauren Masset (LM), Camie Jarrell, (CJ), Karl Spencer (KS)

Excused/Absent: Emily Baker (EB), Amy Kobler (AK), Aubrey Murphy (AM), Matthew Roche (MR)

Guests: Jim Rathman (JR - W. Sen. Planning Board), Nicholas Pozzuto, Sarah Vanderhoff, Ed Sobczak, John Speyer, Nick Fazzio, Chris Ignasiak, Josh Wilson, Grace Blackwell, Tyler Bishop, Caitlin Coffelt, Makiah Franklin, Hayley Hicks, Jennifer Domagalski, Ben Domagalski, Nicolette Loffredo, Julia Koelemeyer, Andrew Pokrik, Josh Jankowski, Maxwell Peck

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Members/appointments officers/duties – selection of officers/duties tabled – EH invited W. Seneca students in attendance to apply for the youth member position, and RR added that all were welcome to join as associate members
2. Meeting Minutes – Jan. 2019, Feb 2019 – accepted and approved by members
3. Financial Report – MW reports that budget amounts are as follows:
 - 2019 WSEC Budget – \$1500.00*
 - Town Environmental funds:
 - National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF) - \$2,710.96* - these funds are earmarked for work at 2805 Clinton St.
 - US Fish & Wildlife Service - \$29,000.00* - these funds are earmarked for the potential purchase of 2805 Clinton St.
 - National Grid Mitigation Fund - \$61,000.00* - these funds are earmarked for work at the Meyer Rd. Wetland, and for work along Buffalo Creek
- *Verified by W. Sen. Finance Dept., as per Councilman B. Hanley
Financial report accepted and approved by members
4. Correspondence – W. Seneca has rec'd. a letter from the Erie County Dept. of Environment & Planning requesting that W. Seneca nominate a resident for appointment to the Erie County Environmental Management Council (to attend monthly meetings). After discussion, KS volunteers, and EH will notify Supervisor Meegan.
5. 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 Annual Reports – status quo
6. Office status quo

IV. WSEC PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Oxbow (2805 Clinton St.) – EH reports that Margaret Wooster called – she wants to re-re-implement the Oxbow Field Club – EH will schedule a meeting with her in April - (CJ, LM will also attend meeting)
2. Standing Subcommittee reports:
 - Tree Issues Subcommittee – discussion with JR re: obtaining value for trees that will be removed from development sites, development of a “tree fund” (tree planting on public property), possible modification of the Tree Ordinance – a subcommittee meeting with the Planning Board will be scheduled
 - Creek Awareness Subcommittee – status quo
 - Education Subcommittee:

- Deer Management – development of proposed “position paper” pending
- Residential Recycling – RR has distributed updated Residential Recycling reference information (received from Modern Disposal) to members
- Butterfly/Pollinator Garden – LM suggested purchase of caterpillar larvae for the garden at Town Hall, and suggested that a butterfly garden may be viable at the oxbow property
- Water Quality Issues Subcommittee:
 - Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Launch – 880 Harlem Rd. – status quo
 - Residential Rain Barrels – status quo
 - Municipal Rain Barrels – status quo
 - Storm Drain Marking - RR requested and received “permission letter” to affix storm drain medallions to curbs from T/ W. Sen. Eng. Dept.
 - 2018 Table of Accomplishments – RR has e-mailed document to Town Board, Env. Commission members

V. OTHER EVENTS

1. 2019 Shoreline Sweep – May 11 (10 a.m. – noon) - RR forwarded registration information to Env. Commission members
2. National Night Out - Aug. 6 – (Dunn Tire parking lot) – RR suggested that members commit to 1 hour “shifts” to work the event

VI. TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1. Carriage Lane Townhomes (2730 Transit Rd.) – (proposed) 38 townhomes – status quo – (item tabled at Planning Board meeting)

VII. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC

1. Erie County has publicized the dates of their (5) Household Hazardous Waste Collection events in 2019 (May 11, June 15, Aug. 10, Sept. 14, Oct. 5) – call 858-6800 for more information
2. Modern Recycling representatives will conduct public information sessions for W. Seneca residents at the Community Center (3/30, 4/27 – 9 a.m.-noon)
3. Erie County Rain Barrel Events – (3) 1 hour events re: fabrication of rain barrels:
 - April 16 – at 633 Elmwood - Buffalo
 - April 23 – at 2010 South Park - Buffalo
 - April 25 – at 1300 Union Rd. - W. Seneca

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Adjourned – 8:20 p.m.