

WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at 7:00 PM

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

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:04 p.m.

II. ATTENDANCE

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

Excused/Absent: Amber McCarthy (AM) Karl Spencer (KS), Emily Baker (EB), Amy Kobler (AK), Jake Kobler (JK)

Town Council: Bill Hanley (BH)

Guests: O Camalleri, T. Gadus, C. Ippolito, A. Jones, Z. Watson, T. Manzabelli, S. Hanley, C. Kloss, M. Joyce, L. Woodworth, O. Ray, K. Roche, E. Newell, A. Dogal, D. Brodnicki, H. Renzoni, M. Bolack, C. Etopio, S. Jedryk, S. Burridge, J. Slisz, R. Lenz, P. Drake, S. Lucas, M. Mingle, B. Shively, , H. Callahan, M. Donohue

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Members – EH advised that AK has resigned – BH will ask the Town Board to appoint Tracy Skalski to the WSEC
2. Meeting Minutes – September 2019 – accepted and approved by members
3. Financial Report – MW reports that budget amounts are as follows:
  - 2019 WSEC Working Budget – \$1450.23
  - Town Environmental funds:
    - National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF) - \$2,710.96
    - US Fish & Wildlife Service - \$29,000.00
    - National Grid Mitigation Fund - \$61,000.00
4. Correspondence – none
5. 2015, 2018 Annual Reports – status quo
6. Office - status quo

IV. WSEC PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Oxbow (2805 Clinton St.) – status quo
2. Standing Subcommittee reports:
  - Tree Issues Subcommittee – status quo
  - Creek Awareness Subcommittee – MW has initiated a brochure for the presentation(s), which are scheduled for 4/2/2020 and (if necessary) 4/14/2020 at the W. Sen. Community Room – electronic invitation/registration is expected to be offered on the W. Seneca website.
  - Education Subcommittee:
    - Deer Management – position paper – status quo, as per EH
    - Deer Management - educational materials – RR is developing for publication in 2020 (also for “flowers for pollinators”)
    - Environmental Corner in Local Media - TS advised that she will focus on educating the public via the Facebook page – she has posted re: residential recycling, and intends to post re: storm drain marking - she asks that any ideas or items that members want posted can be sent to her
  - Water Quality Issues Subcommittee:
    - Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Launch – 880 Harlem Rd. – RR suggests that we identify NY State elected officials to lobby for improvements to the launch area – EH advises those persons are Senator Gallivan and Assemblyman Burke

- Residential Rain Barrels – status quo
- Municipal Rain Barrels – RR emptied barrel at BNAC, stored for winter
- 2019 Storm Drain Marking -- RR to prepare draft report
- 2019 WQI Accomplishments – RR to prepare draft report

V. TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1. 3100 Clinton St – proposed Rosina Foods expansion – as per the 10/17/19 W. Seneca Bee, the issue was tabled at Oct. Planning Board meeting – BH advised that Erie County has indicated that capacity exists in the sanitary sewer system.
2. 945 Center Rd – (proposed construction of 32 residential units by Young Development) - as per the 10/17/19 W. Seneca Bee, Planning Board Chairman R. Niederpruem voiced his displeasure at the removal of the trees at the site – requested that Young Development do a “stump survey” of the site to determine the species and the sizes of the trees that were removed.

VII. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC –

1. 2885 Clinton St. - EH provided a photo of a conceptual site plan depicting a \$4M “completion” of the Robert J Stransky Memorial Athletic Complex - additions to the site to include 2 baseball diamonds, tennis courts, a practice field for rugby, lacrosse, and soccer, and affiliated amenities – she expressed her concern for possible environmental degradation – BH advised that the T./ W. Seneca Code Enforcement Officer said that all plans would have to be submitted/approved by the Planning Board prior to construction
2. Clinton St. repaving project – BH advised that NYSDOT 2 year construction project will begin in 2020

Adjourned – 7:52 p.m.