

WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 7:00 PM

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

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 p.m.

II. ATTENDANCE

Rick Rutkowski (RR) Vice-Chair, Mike Wass (MW), Lauren Masset (LM), Emily Baker (EB), Tracy Skalski, Andrew Beehler (AB)

Excused/Absent: Evelyn Hicks (EH), Karl Spencer (KS), Camie Jarrell (CJ)

Town Council: Bill Hanley (BH)

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Members – Town Board appointments to WSEC (2 year terms) – BH reports that the following (2 year term) appointments have been made by the Town Board: EH (as Chair), and AB (as youth member) – both to expire 12/31/2021 - also, BH is the Town Board liason to the WSEC
2. Meeting Minutes – November 2019 – tabled – Also, 2020 meeting agenda is not viewable on the Town’s web site
3. Financial Report – BH reports that budget amounts are as follows:
 - 2019 WSEC Working Budget – \$1500.00
 - 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
4. Correspondence – none
5. 2015, 2018, 2019 Annual Reports – not yet completed
6. Documentation of WSEC activities – RR suggests that members consider that we document tasks/activities/goals to assist him with completion of meeting minutes, and to assist with recordkeeping and completion of Annual Reports - brief discussion ensues, and members agree that this topic should be addressed at the next meeting – RR will e-mail a template that he uses for his own activities

IV. WSEC PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Oxbow (2805 Clinton St.) – no report
2. Standing Subcommittee reports:
 - Tree Issues Subcommittee – no report
 - Creek Awareness Subcommittee – MW advises that the “flyer” is prepared for the Creek Awareness presentation(s), scheduled for 4/2/2020 and (if necessary) 4/14/2020 at the W. Sen. Community Room – after discussion, members determine that the “flyer” advertising the event be displayed on the Town website and that the “cut off” date for registration be March 26th. – TS will prepare an “Eventbright” for the program. Also, MW suggests that the Know your Backyard video, if made available at the library, would be a good opportunity for educating the public – members agree, and LM will facilitate
 - Education Subcommittee:
 - Deer Management – position paper – status quo
 - Deer Management - educational materials – RR is developing for publication in 2020 (also for “flowers for pollinators”)
 - Environmental Corner in Local Media - TS advises that she needs access to the Town website and will contact Town Clerk Amy Kobler, (as previously requested by EH).
 - Water Quality Issues Subcommittee:

- Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Launch – 880 Harlem Rd. – RR will contact Assemblyman Burke and Senator Gallivan to discuss possible improvements at the site
- Residential Rain Barrels – program discontinued until Spring 2020
- Municipal Rain Barrels – program discontinued until Spring 2020
- 2019 WQI Accomplishments – RR to send to Town Board so that activities can be included on the Town's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Annual Report for 2019.

V. TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1. 3100 Clinton St – members commented on the large number of trees that have been removed from the site
- 2, 945 Center Rd – (proposed construction of 32 residential units by Young Development) - BH advises that the issue of the trees removed from the parcel is expected to be litigated between the Town and the developer.

VII. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC

1. Clinton St mill & overlay project – members critiqued, edited, and finalized the draft letter provided by EH – TS will provide the corrected letter to EH so that she can send it to the Town Board with the fact sheet prepared by TS. The letter requests the Town Board to:
 - support our position that bike lanes be incorporated into the project, and
 - create a committee to develop a “Bike Master Plan” for the Town.BH advises that a representative of the WSEC attend a Town Board meeting to answer questions that may arise from Town Board members.

Adjourned – 8:05 p.m.