

WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at 7:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 p.m.

I. ATTENDANCE

Evelyn Hicks (EH) Chair, Rick Rutkowski (RR) Vice-Chair, Mike Wass (MW), Lauren Masset (LM), Tracy Skalski (TS)

Excused/Absent: Camie Jarrell (CJ), Andrew Beehler (AB), Emily Baker (EB)

Town Council: Bill Hanley (BH)

Guests: C. Holmes (W.S. Bikes), L. Bunny (WS Sun)

II. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Meeting Minutes – November 2019, Feb 2020, June 2020 - tabled
2. Financial Report – MW verifies that budget amounts are as follows:
 - 2020 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
3. Correspondence – EH received a letter from National Grid: re: status of construction of the viewing platform at NYSDEC Protected Freshwater Wetlands BU-13 (Meyer Rd - W.. Sen.)
4. 2015, 2018, 2019 Annual Reports –status quo
5. Documentation of WSEC activities – RR will send excel spreadsheet that he is using to document activities to EH
6. Membership – replacement member not yet appointed by Town Board

III. WSEC PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Oxbow (2805 Clinton St.) – RR removed protective tree fencing (which is constraining tree growth) as necessary – RR prepared proposal for creation of W. Seneca Nature Sanctuary, (draft) cover letter to Town Board (e-mailed to members, BH – April 2020) – EH advised that “no trespassing” signage, placement of barriers to prevent ATV/other motor vehicle access has been discussed with Town Board – no action has been taken re: creation of W. Seneca Nature Sanctuary
2. Standing Subcommittee reports:
 - Tree Issues Subcommittee – status quo
 - Creek Awareness Subcommittee – the planned (Spring 2020) Creek Awareness presentation was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic – TS suggests planning the next presentation for Spring 2021
 - Know Your Backyard video - MW reports that video was shown to 40+ residents at the W. Seneca Library on 3/11/20 – EH, M. Wooster conducted Q & A session afterwards
 - Education Subcommittee:
 - Deer Management – EH reports that Supervisor Dickson will formulate the Town’s position re this topic
 - Deer Management - educational materials – RR has gathered information re: deer plant preferences (for food)
 - Flowers for pollinators – TS has information re: this subject, and will publish in the WSEC’s Environmental Corner in Local Media
 - Water Quality Issues Subcommittee:
 - Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Launch – 880 Harlem Rd. – RR reports that no construction improvement activity is evident at site – he will follow up

- Residential Rain Barrels – none distributed in 2020
 - Municipal Rain Barrels – 1 rain barrel installed at BNAC
 - Storm Drain Marking – no activity to date – discussion ensues - members agree to substitute a “work meeting” in lieu of the August monthly meeting - members will meet on 8/25 (6 p.m.) at the Christian Metz Home to get supplies and to then install storm drain markers
3. Biking in W. Seneca – TS reports community interest in biking, formation of the W. Seneca Bikes group, weekly (Sunday) rides – says that her “wish list “ is to develop a Bike Master Plan in T/W. Seneca – discussion ensues

IV. TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1. 945 Center Rd – (proposed construction of 32 residential units by Young Development) – MW reports that litigation status is delayed as Town Court is closed due to COVID-19 pandemic

V. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC

1. EH reports that Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper has submitted (July 2020) a grant application re: Mitigation of Buffalo Creek flooding in W. Seneca
2. WSEC activities powerpoint provided by EH (7/22/20) to W. Seneca Rotary Club
3. LM mentions Friends of the Burchfield Center scavenger hunts (at that location)

Adjourned – 8:20 p.m.