

WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 7:00 PM  
West Seneca Community Center – 1300 Union Rd., West Seneca

CALL TO ORDER – 7:03 p.m.

I. ATTENDANCE

Evelyn Hicks (EH) Chair, Rick Rutkowski (RR) Vice-Chair, Cynn timer Gaasch (CG), Mike Wass (MW), Jacqueline Balikowski (JB), Tracy Skalski (TS)  
Excused/Absent: Lauren Masset (LM), Emily Masset (EM), Andrew Beehler

II. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Meeting Minutes — March 2021, July 2021, August 2021 - approved
2. Financial Report – as per MW:
  - 2020 WSEC Working Budget –\$1226.93  
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 – Rec'd. letter from NYSDEC – permit to perform work in the NYS Protected Freshwater Wetlands BU-17 (Oxbow wetlands) has expired, and proposed tree planting is not permitted.
4. 2015, 2018, 2019, 2020 Annual Reports – status quo - (need completion, submittal to Town)

III. WSEC PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Oxbow (2805 Clinton St.) – RR attended the ECWQC at their 9/15 meeting at the site – spoke to re: Buffalo Creek issues (sedimentation of creek due to stormwater runoff from land adjacent to creek where soils are exposed (due to off road vehicle travel)
2. Standing Subcommittee reports:
  - Tree Issues Subcommittee – all areas (Burchfield, Knox/Switzer Park , and Harlem Rd. Park) staked by MW, and all pertinent information hand delivered to code enforcement officer (9/20/21) by MW – due to unavailability of tree species, plantings to be postponed to Spring 2022 – after discussion, members opted for plantings to be done in Fall 2022
  - Creek Awareness Subcommittee – no activity
  - Education Subcommittee:
    - Environmental Corner – TS has posted the storm drain marking project to the Environmental Corner
    - Social Media – status quo
    - Other – TS suggests 1 pg. write-up re: oxbow preservation – other possible topics: disconnecting you roof drain downspout, deer and (foraging of) ornamental plants
  - Water Quality Issues Subcommittee:
    - Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Launch – 880 Harlem Rd. – no activity
    - Residential Rain Barrels – no activity
    - Municipal Rain Barrels – no activity
    - Storm Drain Marking – 9/15 - RR e-mailed Town Board of project completion

3. New WSEC Grant opportunities:
  - Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance
  - NY Tree Smart - discussion ensued re: creation of a Town standing subcommittee to address tree issues

#### IV. TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1. 2885 Clinton St – (proposed ballfields (Canisius High School) – MW reports (as per 9/17/21 Sun) – project on hold due to artifacts found in preliminary test pits; will require a more extensive field sampling and review.

#### V. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC:

1. Meyer Rd. Wetlands – construction of viewing platform completed
2. Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection event – 10/9/21 (C. Bflo.) – register by calling (716) 858-6800 or visit [www.erie.gov/recycling](http://www.erie.gov/recycling)
3. Town Deer Task Force – meetings ongoing, no new info
4. Erie County Climate Action program – TS suggests W. Sen. Involvement
5. Biking in W. Seneca – TS would like to hear from WS Bikes re: funding
6. NYSDEC Trail Maintenance in W. Seneca – TS suggests contacting NYSDEC re: maintenance of trails in W. Seneca

Adjourned – 8:53 p.m.

W. Sen. Env. Comm. Mtg. Mins. – Sept. 2021