

**WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WSEC) MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at 7:00 PM**  
**Burchfield Nature & Art Center (BNAC) – 2001 Union Rd., West Seneca**

**I. CALL TO ORDER @ 7:10PM**

**II. ATTENDANCE**

Members: Evelyn Hicks (EH) Chair, Rick Rutkowski (RR) Vice-Chair, Joyce Mallette (JM), Karl Spencer (KS), Dave Monopolus (DM), Jim Caruso (JC), Steve Kondrak (SK), Jack Oshei (JO), Lauren Masset (LM)

Associate Member: Mike Wass (MW)

**III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES**

**1. Meeting Minutes – Dec. 2014, Jan 2015**

RR motion, DM seconded to approve meeting minutes

AYES: ALL

QUESTION: NONE

NOES: NONE

*Motion Carried*

**2. 2014 Annual Report**

RR e-mailed a draft Annual Report to members for review/input on 2/17 - EH suggest changing the "table" format to the format used last year, which includes categories such as Education, Community Issues, On Going Projects, etc. EH also suggests listing committee members at the top and giving credit to the board as a whole rather than recognizing members individually. RR states he initiated the document in table format because he believes it will be easier to categorize projects/accomplishments and for ease of reading. EH to take this into consideration for the reports' final form.

**3. 2015 Budget**

EH reports a current budget of \$1500.00. Items that were requisitioned in Dec. 2014 have not yet been purchased.

**4. Correspondence - None**

**5. Office - Status Quo**

**IV. WSEC MEMBER PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION**

**1. Oxbow (2805 Clinton St.)**

LM reports work for the 2015 season will include cleaning up around the butterfly garden, invasive species removal, assessing the damage from the winter, assessing trees that are under warranty. West Seneca West High School and Canisius High School will also schedule service learning dates. No specific date has been set, but work will start in late March (weather pending). EH reports that

Erie Community College River Academy program has a date scheduled for late in the summer.

**2. 2735 Clinton St.**

EH reports that Connie Miner submitted a proposal for funding to the Niagara Greenway Commission for the "Oxbow Park" project. RR states that he spoke with NYSDEC representative Mike Todd re: the possibility of dredging the Buffalo River (at the Harlem Rd. bridge) in order to accommodate canoes and kayaks which are proposed to be launched from this site, and Mr. Todd advised that the river bottom is bedrock at that location. RR suggests that the concept of a launch site be removed from the project.

**3. W. Seneca Developmental Center- Status Quo**

**4. National Grid – Gardenville Station Upgrade Project - Status Quo**

**5. Subcommittee reports:**

● **Tree Issues Subcommittee**

- KS reports the group met on 2/24/15 at 6:00pm. The group proposed its final set of suggestions, which will be delivered to the Town Attorney and to Dan Bauer (a licensed arborist) for review. EH reports that the SEQRA process and a public hearing must be completed before the document can be incorporated into the Town Code. KS thanks all subcommittee members for their hard work. EH thanks KS for chairing the committee and leading the WSEC through the project.

RR motion, seconded by DM to thank KS for his hard work on behalf of the entire WSEC

AYES: ALL

QUESTION: NONE

NOES: NONE

*Motion Carried*

● **Creek Awareness Subcommittee –**

- The next presentation will be March 13 at 8:25 a.m. for the sixth grade class at West Seneca West Middle School.

● **Water Quality Issues Subcommittee: -**

- **Rain Barrels** – DM reports that he has acquired 25 barrels which will be formulated into rain barrels by subcommittee members and will be given away at various community events

RR motion, DM seconded to purchase hardware for 25 rain barrels with an estimated cost to be less than \$250. Rain barrels will be given away at various community events during 2015.

AYES: ALL

QUESTION: NONE

NOES: NONE

*Motion Carried*

- **Illicit Discharges (Cazenovia Creek)** – RR reviewed results of fall 2014 sampling with NYSDEC staff on Feb 5 – he believes that the NYSDEC erred in formulating the sampling and analysis plan, as it did not evaluate e-coli bacteria that is specific to humans, but instead evaluated the larger category of fecal coliform bacteria – he will follow up with other professionals to determine if they concur with this statement, and will follow up as appropriate with the NYSDEC
- **Boat/canoe/kayak launch site** Status Quo

## 6. New Projects for 2015

- West Seneca Library Display (April)
  - RR provided pamphlets pertaining to stormwater to JM for review
  - Water Quality Issues Subcommittee will provide a rain barrel.
  - Any other items from members should be forwarded to JM prior to April
- Earth Day Clean Up will be April 25, 2015 from 10:00 - 12:00pm. There will be two sites: Burchfield Nature & Art Center and at the intersection of Ridge and Orchard Park Rd.
- Rails to Trails - DM offers to head a subcommittee for the abandoned Norfolk Southern Railway property that is located between Indian Church Rd to French Road in Cheektowaga..
- Comprehensive Plan - The Town of West Seneca is currently updating its Comprehensive Plan. It would be valuable to come up with language to include in regards to Environmental Conservation.

## V.      **NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

1. 1290 Center Rd. (proposed 4 unit Townhouse building) – RR reviewed the documents submitted by the developer on Feb 12 – he advised Town Code Enforcement Officer Jeff Scheiber that the site plans did not show the stormwater retention pond that is identified in the SEQR document
2. 1845/1859 Union Rd. (proposed W. Sen. Fire Dept project) - – RR reviewed the documents submitted by the developer on Feb 12, and concurs with the Town Engineering firm that a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan must be submitted to the Town

## VI      **ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC**

Healthy Niagara Initiative - The initiative will look at the health of the waterways across Western New York (WNY), funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and implemented by Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper (BNRK). Buffalo Creek is not included in this initiative. After the final assessment is released the WSEC will draft a letter to the Town Board.

Motion by RR, seconded by KS to close the meeting at 8:40pm

AYES: ALL

QUESTION: NONE

NOES: NONE

*Motion Carried*

The next WSEC meeting will be held Tuesday March 24, 2015 at 7:00pm. The meeting will take place at the Burchfield Nature & Art Center (2001 Union Road, West Seneca).