

W. SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 7:00 PM  
Burchfield Nature & Art Center – 2001 Union Road - West Seneca, NY 14224

**I. CALL TO ORDER @ 7:01 PM**

**II. ATTENDANCE**

**Members:** Evelyn Hicks (EH), Chair, Rick Rutkowski (RR), Vice-Chair, Karl Spencer (KS), Dave Monopolopolus (DM), Jim Caruso (JC), Lauren Masset (LM), Mike Wass (MW), Matthew Roche (MR)

**Associate Members:** Camie Jarrell (CJ)

**Guests:** Richard Corbetta (RC), Emily Baker (EB)

**West Seneca Town Board Liaison:** - Councilman William Hanley (WH)

**Guests:** Vera Angelina, Bailey Johnson, Jessica Burka, Victoria Brzeowski, Marguarita Kalmuk, Natalya Early, Brooke Leo, Alley Czerwinski, Jennifer Taylor

**III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES**

**1. Meeting Minutes – January 2016**

Motion to accept by JC, seconded by DM

AYES: ALL

QUESTION: NONE

NOS: NONE

*Motion Carried*

**2. 2016 Budget**

2016 WSEC - \$1500.00

National Fish and Wildlife Federation - \$2710.96

US Fish & Wildlife Service - \$29,000.00 designated for purchase of 2735 Clinton St.

Invoice for \$240.74 for storm drain medallions- Motion to accept by JC, seconded by DM

AYES: ALL

QUESTION: NONE

NOS: NONE

*Motion Carried*

**3. Correspondence**

None

**4. Office**

EH reports that the computer and printer need to be serviced.

**5. 2015 Annual Report**

RR reports that no information has been received from members

**6. Memberships - (from 1/4/16 Town Board organization meeting):**

2 year term effective January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016

Evelyn Hicks (chair), Joyce Mallette, Dave Monopolopolus, Lauren Masset, James Caruso

1 year term effective January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016

Richard Rutkowski (Vice Chair), Karl Spencer, Michael Wass  
Youth – 1 year term effective January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016

Matthew Roche

Associate Members

George L. Rockey, Paula Olma, Jack Oshei

Town Board Liaison – 2016

Supervisor Sheila Meegan, Councilman Eugene Hart, Councilman William Hanley

*See below - Motion by DM, Second by LM*

AYES: ALL

QUESTION: NONE

NOS: NONE

*Motion Carried*

To hereby accept the resignation of Joyce Mallette as a voting member of the WSEC. The members of the Commission have enjoyed working with Joyce and thank her for her hard work and dedication to the Town of West Seneca. Further, to ask the Town Board to acknowledge Joyce's 30+ years of volunteer service to the WSEC at a future Town Board meeting.

*See below - Motion by EH, Second by RR*

AYES: ALL

QUESTION: NONE

NOS: NONE

*Motion Carried*

To hereby request that the Town Board appoint Camie Jarrell, P.E., 1185 Mineral Springs Road, West Seneca, NY 14224 to fill the unexpired term of Joyce Mallette ending December 31, 2016.

*See below - Motion by DM, Second by KS*

AYES: ALL

QUESTION: NONE

NOS: NONE

*Motion Carried*

To hereby request that the Town Board appoint Emily Baker and Richard Corbetta as Associate Members effective immediately.

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

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

Status Quo

**2. 2735 Clinton Street**

RR advises that he reviewed the [Consolidated Funding Application](#) – (Park Acquisition, Development and Planning) – opportunity to apply for NYS grant - potential for 50% reimbursement towards purchase cost of property

EH states that no further funding is currently needed for this property, as the owner has agreed to accept \$29,000.00 for purchase of the 13+ acres (consisting of wetland and floodplain area). EH would like to determine if grant funds from the Consolidated Funding Application could be used to purchase a different parcel (58 acres – location - 3099

Clinton St.) along Buffalo Creek. RR will provide additional research/information re: the Consolidated Funding Application. EH requests that RR find out who the funding partners can be on the grant.

### **3. Subcommittee reports:**

#### **o Tree Issues Subcommittee**

KS attended the 2/11/16 Planning Board meeting – in regards to the proposed Tim Horton's (Union/Indian Church Road.), he advised that, according to the intent of the Town Tree Ordinance, a tree survey must be completed prior to clear cutting of any trees.

EH states that Jordan Judzowski (student at Canisius College) would like to do an internship with the WSEC pertaining to tree related issues. The student is hoping to work with us May-July 2016.

#### **o Creek Awareness Subcommittee**

Status Quo

#### **o Water Quality Issues Subcommittee:**

#### **o Canoe/Kayak launch site (880 Harlem Rd.)**

Status Quo

#### **o Storm drain marking program**

100 medallions received

### **4. 2016 Projects**

**o** Possible development of public outreach of WSEC activities to residents during 2016 BNAC events - RR reviewed (2) PPT presentations – both look appropriate (with some modifications) for community outreach.

**o** Fabrication/distribution of rain barrels to residents – possible raffle during Earth Day, at National Night Out, other public outreach events.

**o** Educational program for downspout disconnect for residential homes. – topic is included in one of the PPT presentations referred to (above)

**o** Library display and presentations

Status Quo

**o** Earth Day (Apr 23) creek clean up event – 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM at Burchfield Nature & Art Center

**o** National Night Out (Aug. 2) at Southgate Plaza

### **V. OTHER PROJECTS**

1. Cazenovia Creek Wildlife Area – Status Quo

2. National Grid Gardenville Station Upgrade (885 Indian Church Rd.) – Status Quo

3. Potable Water - JC questioned the conversion of water system from “Lease Managed” to “Direct Service”. [HERE: Water System from Lease Managed to Direct Service](#). - according to WH, the project is “on hold” because the bid was 40 percent higher than budgeted. W. Sen. is negotiating with ECWA to allow less expensive alternatives that, according to Town Engineering staff, are just as good as more expensive options. ECWA also has made the project a moving target. Adding additional projects almost monthly makes it almost impossible for the town to complete. The initial

projected cost was 4.5 million dollars. The additions have pushed the project past 10 million in the 2.5 years since W. Sen./ECWA agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding. Because of the escalating cost, W. Sen. rejected the bid, and the Town's Engineers are in the process of renegotiating the parameters of the project.

JC questions Councilman Hanley: 1.) Why are water users not notified when water is shut off? Councilman Hanley answers that Erie County Water Authority would notify the residents. 2.) Does Erie County Water Authority do any sampling after they repair lines? Councilman Hanley states he does not know. This is Erie County Water Authority's responsibility.

## VI. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC –

RC stated his concern of the invasive species Japanese Knotweed in the Town of West Seneca. He discussed the idea of distributing material on the species to residents. He also discussed DEC guidelines. He plans to further research the issue. Councilman Hanley to follow up with Town Attorney John J. Fenz, ESQ on the issue. EH explains the Knot Weed control methods at the Buffalo Creek Oxbow Wetland.

Natala Early mentions her concerns for Giant Hogweed within the Town. EH advises anyone who sees the plant to stay away from it and report the location to the DEC.

EH discusses the Great Lakes Action Agenda Work Group meeting on March 2, 2016 from 1:00 - 4:00 PM at Woodlawn Beach. All members are encouraged to attend.

Next meeting date will be moved to March 29, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

Motion to close at 8:27 PM by RR, seconded by MW

AYES: ALL

QUESTION: NONE

NOS: NONE

*Motion Carried*