

## W. SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 24, 2010 at 7:00 PM

Burchfield Nature and Arts Center

2001 Union Road, West Seneca

### I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:10

### II. ATTENDANCE

Present: Rick Rutkowski, Vice-Chairman; Evelyn Hicks, Chairman; Joyce Mallette, Paula Olma, Dave Monopolus, George Rockey, Sheila Meegan, Gary Oosterhoudt

### III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. The July 2010 meeting minutes were distributed, reviewed, and accepted (GR), second (GO), motion carried - RR will provide minutes to town personnel for posting on the Town's web site.
2. Treasurer's report: a total of \$171.30 was spent to buy embroidered golf shirts from Trophys Trophys. \$50.00 was donated to the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper. \$556.13 remaining in 2010 budget. RR will ask Al Kerner to evaluate a suitable GPS unit for the commission to purchase.
3. New Members – SM has identified 2 persons, and GO has identified 1 person that may be interested in joining and/or participating in commission activities. Names and contact information will be provided to EH, and they will be invited to attend our next WSEC meeting.
4. Office Space – SM will pursue obtaining the middle office at the Burchfield Center for the use of the Commission. Burchfield facility in transition. WSEC can continue to meet there. WSEC was asked to serve on the committee recently formed to run/manage the Burchfield property - from the environmental standpoint. They have volunteers to do the work, but need direction that we can provide. Brainstorming Ideas are welcome. Do we want to have a permanent display of small, stuffed animals at BNAC?
5. 2010-11 Meeting Schedule – was distributed, agreed upon (with minor modifications) by all – RR will provide to town personnel for posting on the Town's web site.

### IV. DISCUSSION - 2010 WSEC PROJECTS

1. Leydecker Rd. Creek Access Point – EH spoke with Highways staff - Highways will continue to cut grass in order to maintain traffic sight lines. Al Kerner indicated that repair work will be conducted on the storm sewer receiver located near the parking area. EH will follow up with the town for trash receptacle/pick up services.
2. Oxbow Property - work group performed hand-removal of Japanese knotweed on 8/4/10. Used sickles to knock down knotweed and left it to smother new growth. Will evaluate this method for effectiveness, but expect that it will grow back. Advantage is that it will not be able to flower and to seed this season. One more patch near West arm of oxbow needs to be cut down – DM offered to perform this task.

Ecology and Environment performed a herpetological (frogs and turtles) study in the oxbow as part of National Fish and Wildlife Federation grant (8/3-8/5). Report not completed yet.

3. Serafini Property – appraisal was received (from Holt Associates). EH spoke with Mr. Serafini about the acquisition of the property (\$33,000.00 for a portion of the site). Mr. Serafini is a willing seller. WSEC will try to ID available funding (grants, other opportunities). Serafini Trucking & Canisius High School was also indemnified under the Town's insurance policy as we use their property for access to the oxbow. Need to discuss maintenance of property and possible placement and use of barn.
3. Hi View Terrace – the NY State Budget has been approved, so RR will again speak with Gerry Palumbo (NYSDEC) re: awarding of the Water Quality Improvement Program grant funding.
4. Night Out – August 3 – Southgate plaza – PO, GR, and his daughter (Julia) manned the booth and did a great job advocating for the Conservation of the Environment in West Seneca. EH attended from 7-9pm. Mary Rossi (Erie Co. Dept. of Env. & Planning) attended, along with Gary Bommer (Town Engineering Dept). A few people signed up on the volunteer sign up sheet.

#### V. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1. Edbauer Construction – no report
2. Houghton College – item was presented at the Town Board meeting of 8/16/10. Public hearing was held, much discussion about problems with sewer district #13. Town Board tabled the item until the next meeting.
3. NYSDEC letter - RR reports that the DEC has sent letters to Erie County and the City of Buffalo which has the intent of eliminating sewer overflow problems by becoming more restrictive of those entities as pertains to ensuring that sewer capacity is adequate. This is expected to have a "trickle down" effect (i.e. an impact on new development and how it will be structured within our community).

#### VI. NEW PROJECTS FOR 2010

1. 1030 Orchard Park Rd – EH in contact with US Fish & Wildlife Service regarding status of Natural Resource Damages monies available for the improvement of this site. There is approximately \$30,000.00 available at this time. EH to continue to work with USFWS to procure funds for Town. A long term management plan is needed for this parcel.
2. 1200 East & West Rd. - the DEC sent a letter to the NYS Dormitory Authority requesting transfer of the property (includes Leydecker Woods) to them. Margaret Wooster asked the WNY Botanical Society to do a preliminary plant survey for the property. EH spoke with Russ Biss of the NYSDEC Region 9 who asked the WSEC to send a letter of support for the land transfer. Letter to be sent within the next day or so.
3. Buffalo River Ecological Restoration Master Plan - EH met with Regan Gifford of Ecology & Environment (E&E) who is coordinating the creation of the Master Plan for the watershed. EH gave Ms. Griffin access to the WSEC materials in order to assist E&E in preparing the grant. We are awaiting additional requests for information from E&E.

4. Western NY Land Conservancy – has expressed interest in the WSEC activities – EH has scheduled meetings with their representatives on 9/15 and 9/29 at 9 a.m. at the Burchfield Center

Meeting adjourned - 9:23