

W. SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 22, 2011
Burchfield Nature and Arts Center (BNAC)
2001 Union Road, West Seneca

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:05 P.M.

II. ATTENDANCE

Present: Evelyn Hicks (EH), Rick Rutkowski (RR), Joyce Mallette (JM),
Dave Monopolus (DM), George Rockey (GR), Sheila Meegan (SM)

Guest: Mitchell Krah, Jack Oshei

Excused: Paula Olma

Absent: Gary Oosterhoudt (GO)

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. January 2011 meeting minutes were read by RR, accepted by the commission members – EH will provide same to town for posting on web site.
2. Financial/Treasurer's report: JM reports that \$10.68 (monies owed to Rebo Supply Inc. have been paid (by the Town Comptroller) from our 2010 budget. No budget expenditures yet this year. EH had requested that the Town make payment (\$200.00) to Sustainable Earth Solutions for 5-8 attendees (students) to the Environmental Youth Summit (March 4-5)
3. Youth membership – EH sent application for J. Oshei to the Town Board.
4. Office – stuffed animals need to be displayed and/or stored as needed, perhaps within the BNAC or the Metz House. Chairs and a trash can are needed for the office. SM said that these items, as well as (possibly) a computer and printer, would be supplied in the near future.
5. Correspondence – none received since last meeting.
6. Lake Erie Watershed Municipal Survey – RR has completed and returned the survey to the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning.

IV. DISCUSSION - 2011 WSEC PROJECTS

1. Oxbow Property – a verbal summary of the Buffalo River Watershed Owner's Manual – Town of West Seneca, NY booklet which provides information concerning the oxbow will be presented (along with the hard copies) at a future Town Board meeting. Margaret Wooster (Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper) has prepared a pre proposal. EH has submitted the document to the Sustain Our Great Lakes organization (a public-private partnership) which, if approved, will allow for submittal of a grant proposal which could provide grant funds for continuing our work at the oxbow – the work day which is planned (May 7, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.) for Japanese Knotweed removal at the oxbow is not affected by this effort. We will be joined by ECC students that are being taught an environmental course this semester by Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper (BNR) staff.
2. Hi View Terrace – on hold/status quo since the last meeting
3. Leydecker Rd. Creek Access Point – DM recently checked the site and reports that all appears to be O.K.

V. DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1. Edbauer Construction – the request for a variance (to reduce the size of the planned parking area to 14 spaces) was approved at the Town's 1/26/2011 Zoning Board meeting. Heavy equipment is to be stored indoors at the site.
2. Houghton College – the legal representative for the developer has filed suit against the Town in order to obtain the rights to continue with the project – the hearing was conducted today and results will be reported at our next scheduled meeting.

VI. CONTINUING PROJECTS FOR 2011

1. 1030 Orchard Park Rd – no new information to report – EH will check with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to determine the amount of funding that is available for any projects within this parcel.
2. 1200 East & West Rd. – NYSDEC will obtain this parcel from the NYSDOH – GR said that Mark Kandel (DEC) advised that this parcel will be administered by the Div. of Fish and Wildlife.
3. Members Suggested Projects for 2011
 - Protection of Ash Trees in W. Seneca – status quo, as PO is wintering in Florida until Spring of 2011
 - WSEC educational activities – October at the library – a display which depicts our activities must be developed
 - Acquisition of the Serafini (2735 Clinton St) parcel – EH has reviewed a grant opportunity; however, the funding amount that was available was too large for the planned acquisition. GR said that \$10,000 may be available from Ducks Unlimited (as matching funds) for acquisition of the parcel.
 - Creek access - DM said that there may be an opportunity to access Cazenovia creek at the end of Ludwig St., as he believes that the Town owns a parcel at that location.
 - Storm sewer stenciling – RR will prepare a letter to the Town requesting permission for this activity. Stencils are available from the BNR, but paint must be provided.
 - April 16, 2011 – Earth Day – clean up at BNAC (10 a.m. – 1 p.m.) – DM suggests that we contact a paper shredding company to determine if they would be at the site for residents that need confidential documents shredded. SM said that there also is a need for the Town to shred documents. .
 - April 30, 2011 – Arbor Day event at BNAC

Meeting adjourned – 9:07 P.M.