

W. SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 25, 2011
Burchfield Nature and Arts Center (BNAC)
2001 Union Road, West Seneca

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:03 P.M.

II. ATTENDANCE

Present: Evelyn Hicks (EH), Rick Rutkowski (RR), Joyce Mallette (JM),
Dave Monopolus (DM), George Rockey (GR), Gary Oosterhoudt (GO)

Guest: Mitchell Krah

Excused: Paula Olma

Absent: Sheila Meegan

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. November 2010 meeting minutes were accepted by the commission members – EH will provide same to town for posting on web site
2. Purchases – since our November 2010 meeting, EH has purchased a flashlight set (\$6.74), a headlamp (\$10.12), a hand held GPS unit (\$81.00), stationery (\$256.58), and binoculars (\$53.99).
3. Treasurer's report: J M reports that we have utilized \$977.40 (of our total 2010 budget of \$1000.00). Our 2011 budget is \$3000.00. Planned budget items are as follows:
 - Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper - \$50.00 donation
 - Storm Sewer Stenciling - \$300.00
 - Camera - \$250.00
 - Sponsorship of 5-8 W. Seneca students at the Student Summit (March 4-5) – topic is "Sustainable Earth Solutions" - \$200.00WSEC members voted to approve budget funds for identified expenses
4. Office – a file cabinet has been installed in the office, and the stuffed animals have been moved (and are displayed) at the Burchfield Nature and Arts Center. Chairs and a trash can are needed for the office.
5. Guest (see ATTENDANCE above) at the meeting was introduced.
6. Correspondence:
 - a. pertaining to an Arbor Day grant was provided to EH for follow up;
 - b. pertaining to a FOIL request re: commission members was received, and will be sent to Town Attorney S. Martin for his response.

IV. DISCUSSION - 2011 WSEC PROJECTS

1. Oxbow Property – the Commission received 2 copies of the Buffalo River Watershed Owner's Manual – Town of West Seneca, NY from Margaret Wooster (Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper) - a verbal summary of the document will be presented (along with the hard copies) at a future Town Board meeting. The Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper staff intends to submit a pre-proposal to the Sustain Our Great Lakes organization (a public-private partnership) which potentially will provide grant funds for continuing our work at the oxbow – also, a work day is planned (May 5, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.) for Japanese Knotweed removal at the oxbow.

2. Serafini Property – EH is pursuing acquisition of the parcel with a representative of the owner of the property- currently, this is “on hold” as that person is vacationing out of the area
3. Hi View Terrace – status quo since the last meeting
4. Leydecker Rd. Creek Access Point – GO recently checked the site and reports that all appears to be O.K.
5. Lake Erie Watershed Municipal Survey – was received by the Town and was forwarded to the WSEC – RR will complete and will return to the Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District – JM will provide a copy to Ron Pfiel (W. Seneca Engineering office).

V. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1. Edbauer Construction – will request a variance from the Town (at the 1/26/2011 Zoning Board meeting) to reduce the size of their planned parking area at the site.
2. Houghton College – the legal representative for the developer intends to sue the Town in order to obtain the rights to continue with the project.

VI. NEW 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 NYS Development Center – GR will contact the NYSDEC (Mark Kandel) to determine the status of this parcel - EH would like to see a conservation easement become a part of the deed for the parcel
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 – JM has obtained the month of October for our display at the library
 - 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
 - Oxbow - GR has identified that \$10,000 is available from Ducks Unlimited to remove construction and demolition material from the site – members discussed this opportunity and decided to forego it at the present time – EH asked that he check with that organization to determine if those funds are available for land acquisition (Serafini property).
 - Creek access - DM will pursue opportunities
 - Storm sewer stenciling – RR is planning to obtain permission from the Town to perform this activity at Town owned storm sewers, as well as to plan public education and participation activities, elected officials involvement, and positive publicity pertaining to this activity
 - April 16, 2011 – Earth Day – clean up at BNAC (10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)
 - April 30, 2011 – Arbor Day event at BNAC

Meeting adjourned – 9:10 P.M.