

W. SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 22, 2011

Burchfield Nature and Arts Center (BNAC)

2001 Union Road, West Seneca

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:07 P.M.

II. ATTENDANCE

Present: Evelyn Hicks (EH), Rick Rutkowski (RR), Joyce Mallette (JM),
Dave Monopolus (DM), Gary Oosterhoudt (GO), Jack Oshei (JO)

Guest: Patricia Hamilton (65 Harlem Rd. W. Seneca)

Excused: Paula Olma (PO)

Absent: George Rockey (GR), Sheila Meegan (SM)

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. February 2011 meeting minutes were reviewed, accepted by the commission members – EH will provide same to town for posting on web site after changing document to PDF format.
2. Financial/Treasurer's report: bill for \$23.86 received from Reboy Supply Inc. for taxes and monthly charges – EH will send letter to them advising that purchases should have been tax exempt and request that they “zero out” the bill. RR suggests that future purchases be made through Town Depts (if possible) to avoid this type of accounting problem. EH has a tax exempt certificate for future purchases if needed. JM will check with the Town Comptroller to determine if payment (\$200.00) has been made to Sustainable Earth Solutions for attendees (students) to the Environmental Youth Summit – JO attended and reports that the Summit was fulfilling.
3. Youth membership – application for JO has been approved by the Town Board.
4. Office – RR has organized files and materials, although stuffed animals need to be relocated for storage to allow for working space in the office – DM suggests that storage may be available in the BNAC – RR will check with Rich Reimers to assess this opportunity- JM has brought files and other materials for the storage in the WSEC office.
5. Correspondence – Complaint re: odors emanating from property at 75 Tobey Hill Dr. was received from a neighbor (E. Toepfer) – RR reports that he (as well as NYSDEC staff) had advised E. Toepfer regarding this issue during Autumn of 2010. Previous correspondence received from complainant was forwarded to the Town Attorney.
6. Commission member ID badges – available from Dan at the Kiwanis Club - 50 Legion Dr. – Mon 6-9 PM, – M-F 1:00 – 4:30, Sat. 1:00 – 4:00

IV. DISCUSSION - 2011 WSEC PROJECTS

1. Oxbow Property (2805 Clinton St) – RR observations of 3/21: level of water in wetlands was down significantly (est. 3') – it appeared as if heavy equipment was used to remove material from mouth of oxbow at berm (prior to discharge to creek - debris consisting of corrugated pipe, stone, tree limbs stockpiled on berm at site - RR discussed with Doug Borschel (NYSDEC staff) – no permit issued for this work – was advised to refer

any information to C. Rosenberg (NYSDEC) – EH had been advised of this occurrence and had received a photo from Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper staff – she will forward to C. Rosenberg - she has discussed this episode (and possible remediation) with John Whitney (National Resource Conservation Service) and Mark Gaston (EC Soil and Water Conservation District) – she will contact Town Highway Dept. to determine if they had performed any work at that site.

2. Serafini Property (2735 Clinton St) – EH sent information pertaining to this parcel to Katherine Jahn (US Fish and Wildlife Service) and subsequently spoke with her - discussed use of funds (approx. 26K) which have been allocated for 1030 Orchard Park Rd. for possible use to acquire other property within the Buffalo River watershed for green space (i.e. Serafini property) and had been advised that it would be a permissible option – she will discuss possible procurement of other funds from Ducks Unlimited with GR.
3. Hi View Terrace – on hold/status quo since the last meeting – RR will discuss this project with Richard Henry (Clark Paterson Lee) - firm has been hired to perform engineering work by Town Board

V. DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1. Edbauer Construction – (Clinton St) – DM reports that trees, scrub brush have been cleared – no soil disturbance, no construction activity as of yet.
2. Houghton College (810 Union Rd.) – the legal representative for the developer has won the lawsuit to continue with the project – the ruling will be appealed.
3. New Development – possible relocation of SPCA to W. Seneca, possibly at a site on Harlem Rd. near Rt. 400 – RR suggests that the Town Planning Board be solicited to compile/maintain a list of previously utilized sites (currently vacant, with existing infrastructure) that exist within the town for new businesses to consider for relocation – will be mentioned at the next Town Board meeting (April 4).

VI. CONTINUING PROJECTS FOR 2011

1. 1030 Orchard Park Rd – EH reports that US Fish and Wildlife Service will review property to determine highest appropriate use.
2. 1200 East & West Rd. – NYSDEC will obtain this parcel from the NYS Dormitory Authority – members discussed advising the Town of how we feel this property should be developed (i.e. implementing smart growth techniques) – we will compose/send a letter to the Town.
3. Members Projects for 2011
 - PO - Protection of Ash Trees in W. Seneca – status quo, as PO is wintering in Florida until Spring of 2011
 - JM - WS educational display) – October at the library – JM to develop outline of proposed display depicting our activities
 - EH - Acquisition of the Serafini (2735 Clinton St) parcel – see above.
 - DM - Creek access - DM to evaluate access to Cazenovia creek at the end of Ludwig St.
 - RR - Storm sewer stenciling – RR has drafted a letter to the Town requesting permission for this activity. – provided to SM for review – will ID recently paved streets for this activity

- April 16, 2011 – Earth Day – (10 a.m. – 1 p.m.) – activities at BNAC to consist of creek bank cleanup, Town Highway provision of environmental services to residents, document shredding by private firm.
- Patricia Hamilton would like to initiate tree planting along Harlem Rd. (from Seneca St. to N. Seneca St.) along the R-O-W in order to help mitigate airborne pollution – commission members feel that this would be a viable project – advised her to initiate project by obtaining permission from the NYSDOT – JM will provide her with DOT contact information.

Meeting adjourned – 8:56 P.M.