

W. SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011
Burchfield Nature and Arts Center (BNAC)
2001 Union Road, West Seneca

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:10 P.M.

II. ATTENDANCE

Present: Evelyn Hicks (EH), Rick Rutkowski (RR), Joyce Mallette (JM), Gary Oosterhoudt (GO), George Rockey (GR), Paula Olma (PO), Jack Oshei (JO), Sheila Meegan (SM)

Excused: Dave Monolopolus (DM)

Guests: Steve Kondrak (SK), Ms. Linda Emmi

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. October 2011 meeting minutes were accepted (as final) by the Commission members - RR will send to SM for publication on the Town's web site
2. Financial/Treasurer's report – JM reported current balance of \$1859.32 – expenditures that were processed/paid were \$373.06 (EH – National Fish & Wildlife Federation award ceremony trip), \$20.17 (JM – photos for library display), \$494.85 (Dell Marketing – office computer/equipment).
3. 2011-2012 Budget Issues - SM said that any 2011 budget funds which remain at the end of 2011 will be added to the 2012 WSEC budget – SM said that there was only 1 line item (Equipment & Supplies) for our 2011 & 2012 budgets, and that a motion would have to be approved/passed by committee members for RR to be reimbursed for mileage associated with WSEC affiliated activities (i.e. storm drain stenciling, supply/equipment retrieval) – PO made a motion to that effect, GO 2nd, motion approved and passed – RR will submit voucher for payment with detailed mileage/tasks sheet attached. SM said that the WSEC budget for 2012 is \$3,000.00.
4. Correspondence – none received
5. Office - filing of paperwork & file cabinet organization needs to be done, computer/related equipment needs to be set up - RR proposed 2012 meeting schedule change to 3rd Tues each month (for EH benefit) – subject tabled until Jan 2012 meeting
6. Membership/Associate members – one member position still vacant – SK will apply for that position – EH said that DM has submitted his letter to the Town for reappointment

IV. MEMBERS PROJECTS – UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Serafini Property (2735 Clinton St) – RR said that one tree had been felled by beaver (Nov 26-27) – SM said that Bill Schwartz (W. Seneca Animal Control Officer) has initiated trapping program at site (also along Fisher Rd). RR requested that he provide monthly reports to the WSEC - SM will request results from him for our Jan 2012 meeting. EH spoke with US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) re: process to transfer funds (\$29,000.00) to W. Seneca – invoice must be prepared, sent to USFWS

2. Oxbow Property (2805 Clinton St.) – EH reports that oxbow sign is missing, and a replacement sign is needed
3. Storm drain stenciling - completed for 2011 – summary of results: 191 storm drains stenciled (35 hrs worked), 22 cans of paint used - detailed documentation (attached) circulated at meeting, will be provided to appropriate Town Personnel (SM, Highway & Engineering Depts.) - RR will return (borrowed) stencils to the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper – would like to continue this work as his 2012 project – received cost information for the following items from Hanes Supply (W. Seneca vendor) – Paint \$55.80/case, safety vests - \$10.14 ea., (18") safety cones - \$6.08 ea., latex gloves – \$10.15/box (100/box) – unable to find stencils produced locally - GR will procure safety vests from Ducks Unlimited – WSEC members discussed necessary purchases, agreed as follows: 5 cases of paint, 10 boxes of gloves, 10 safety cones – RR will order, procure, store supplies at BNAC office
4. Ludwig Ave. Creek Access site –GR, DM have performed a site visit – GR to pursue opportunity to obtain access to property from owner(s)
5. Leydecker Rd. Creek Access site – GO, SM, PO have visited site since last meeting, have picked up and removed debris as necessary

V. DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1. 1200 East & West Rd. – EH proposed a series of 4 workshops pertaining to future development of parcel - to be conducted at W. Seneca Senior Center (4620 Seneca St.) – dates/topics are as follows:
 - 1/18/2012 – historical & environmental overview of parcel
 - 2/1/2012 – current zoning, SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis of parcel
 - 2/15/2012 -future possible development opportunities at parcel
 - 3/7/2012 - overview of 1st three workshops – will also provide opportunity for breakout sessions, public discourse
 EH will coordinate this effort, will provide further information as it becomes available

VI. FUTURE PROJECTS

1. Evaluation of Town Recycling & Composting Programs – EH mentioned that the Erie Co. Environmental Management Council is addressing recycling/composting efforts
2. Protection of Ash Trees – SM reports possible emerald ash borer infestation in tree(s) on Cathedral Dr, will contact Pat Morin (NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation to investigate
3. National Fish and Wildlife Federation Grant - grant distributed to members for review by EH - RR said that Mary Rossi (ECDEP) has indicated her interest as a potential candidate for project coordinator position – he has not yet sent it to (ex) ECDEP co-worker Susan Attridge –WSEC members need to review grant, ID/prepare job duties -
4. Member Projects for 2012 - RR would like to continue storm drain stenciling – GO mentioned that he would like to pursue Canoe/kayak launch development at 570 Mineral Springs Rd (Town owned composting site) – RR mentioned that it may be more cost effective to investigate the feasibility of using the NYSDEC Fishing access site which currently exists

immediately upstream of that location - discussion of other member's projects will take place next meeting (Jan 24, 2012)

V. Other

1. West Seneca Website – RR reports that none of the WSEC meeting minutes for 2011 are evident on the website, and some meeting minutes from previous years are missing – SM will investigate – Protocol discussed, agreed to - RR will provide approved meeting minutes to SM for posting on website
2. Training – EH mentioned that Lorman Educational Services is providing a State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) training seminar – she would like to obtain those training materials – cost to be in the range of \$350.00 - \$400.00.

Meeting adjourned – 8:49 P.M.