

W. SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

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

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 P.M.

II. ATTENDANCE

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

Excused: Jack Oshei (JO)

Absent: Sheila Meegan (SM)

Guest: Steve Kondrak

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. September 2011 meeting minutes were reviewed, corrected, accepted by the Commission members
2. Financial/Treasurer's report, 2011 budget – JM reported current balance of \$2747.40 in WSEC budget – RR mentioned that he discussed reimbursement for his mileage related to WSEC activities performed with Jodie Wysocki (Comptroller's office) – she reported that the 2011 budget for the WSEC is allocated to "Equipment and Supplies", and therefore mileage was not eligible for reimbursement– RR verified this on the West Seneca website, and also noted that our proposed 2012 budget (\$1000.00) was set up in the same manner – the matter was discussed by Commission members and RR made a motion to amend the West Seneca Environmental Commission's 2011 budget (retroactive to 1/1/2011, and to include the proposed 2012 Environmental Commission budget) to allow for any expenses deemed necessary and approved by the Environmental Commission members to carry out duties and tasks of the Commission. Motion seconded by DM, approved unanimously by members – EH asked RR to provide this information to her via an e-mail, and she will discuss resolution of same with Town personnel.
3. Correspondence – none received
4. Office /2012 meetings - filing of paperwork & file cabinet organization needs to be done - computer equipment needs to be set up - RR provided proposed 2012 meeting schedule, suggests no meeting in December (25th)
5. Membership/Associate members – one member position still vacant – EH asked Steve Kondrak to consider applying for membership or associate membership – also asked RR to provide WSEC information to S. Kondrak and Justin Kindt via e-mail

IV. MEMBERS PROJECTS – UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Serafini Property (2735 Clinton St) – EH said that Edbauer Construction personnel were apprehensive about relocating the building previously used as a stable due to structural concerns, and, as an alternative,

mentioned the possibility of obtaining an easement so that it could be utilized by the WSEC in the future

2. Oxbow Property (2805 Clinton St.) - RR reports that tree wrapping project scheduled for 10/1 was cancelled due to rain – EH reported that girl scouts and Ecosystem Restoration through Interdisciplinary Exchange (ERIE) program staff performed tree wrapping earlier this month - RR discussed beaver trapping with Tim Spierto (NYSDEC) – open season (no permit needed) from 11/25 – 2/15 - no cost is anticipated as pelts can be kept by trappers – EH advised that Bill Schwartz (W. Seneca Animal Control Officer) will be asked to trap beaver during this time period
3. Stormwater Project - RR disconnected, emptied rain barrels at BNAC – stored by Tom Amoia @ Metz House – onset of cold weather, rain may curtail additional stenciling opportunities – RR intends to return (borrowed) stencils to the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper
4. Library Display – JM, PO set up library display on 10/3 – will be removed on 10/31 – JM reports that staff would not allow a volunteer sign-up sheet to be posted in the library
5. Ludwig Ave. Creek Access site – RR has referenced the Erie Co. NY On-Line Mapping System to ID property ownership, and reports that parcels at end of street are not owned by West Seneca - one parcel owned by NYSEG, one parcel owned privately (74 Ludwig) – no public access currently available – GR, DM will perform a site visit, and GR will solicit access to the creek via the NYSEG parcel from that agency
6. Leydecker Rd. Creek Access site – GO reports that site was free of debris this a.m.

V. DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1. Houghton College (810 Union Rd.) – no report
2. 1200 East & West Rd. – property is in the process of being surveyed to ID the portion that will be managed by the NYSDEC Div. of Fish & Wildlife – to be named the Cazenovia Creek Wildlife Management Area – GR will obtain additional information, map of area from Mark Kandel (DEC) – EH spoke with Mark Kandel re: remediation needs for the south bank of the creek, north of the Developmental Center (between Leydecker and Mill Rds.)
3. National Fish and Wildlife Federation Grant - grant distributed to members for review by EH - RR provided to Mary Rossi (ECDEP) as a potential candidate for project coordinator position, and will also send to Susan Attridge – WSEC members need to review grant, ID/prepare job duties - EH believes that a subcommittee needs to be formed to focus on necessary tasks – members will discuss more fully at November meeting

VI. FUTURE PROJECTS

1. Evaluation of Town Recycling & Composting Programs – no report
2. Protection of Ash Trees – PO advises that South Park (Buffalo), Lancaster are known to have been infested by the emerald ash borer – treatment with pesticides are expensive – speakers at session advocate the creation of a local (Erie County?) task force – discussion ensued, identifying the need for ash tree survey, joining task force for future

(2012) actions - RR provided a set of handouts from the meeting – also, had e-mailed his notes from the meeting to WSEC members on 10/24

VII. OTHER

1. 2011 Budget – RR will obtain pricing for storm drain stencil printing – other possible expenditures are for paint, camera, need for survey (for subdivision of 2735 Clinton St.)

Meeting adjourned – 8:32 P.M.

W. Sen. Env. Comm\Meetings – Minutes – Oct 2011