

W. SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 27, 2011
Burchfield Nature and Arts Center (BNAC)
2001 Union Road, West Seneca

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:02 P.M.

II. ATTENDANCE

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

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

Guests: Steve Kondrak, Justin Kindt

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. August 2011 meeting minutes were reviewed, corrected, accepted by the commission members
2. Financial/Treasurer's report - current balance - \$2747.40
3. Correspondence – grant agreement from National Fish & Wildlife Foundation rec'd for oxbow restoration – \$60,670.00 - will begin on 3/15/2012, ends on 8/14/13 - EH advises that a position for Project Coordinator exists (\$25.00/hr, 1170 hrs) – WSEC should ID a candidate for the position by the end of 2011 - RR previously worked at Erie County Dept of Environment & Planning, and suggests that (ex co-workers) Susan Attridge or Mary Rossi would be viable candidates – RR asks that grant be distributed to members for review - EH will do this task
4. Office /Equipment – filing of paperwork & file cabinet organization needs to be done - EH has not yet purchased the camera
5. Membership – Town has informed EH of term expiration dates:
 - May 2012 – for Monopolus, Olma, Oosterhoudt, Rockey
 - May 2013 - for Hicks, Rutkowski, Mallette, OsheiJM mentions that the WSEC membership should total 9 members, and we have 8 at this time - EH invites guests to consider membership

IV. MEMBERS PROJECTS – UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Oxbow Property (2805 Clinton St) - Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper (BNR) staff performed knotweed removal on 9/11 – plans to perform tree wrapping on 10/1 @12:45 – members are invited to participate – EH said that beavers need to be trapped/removed from wetlands
2. Serafini Property (2735 Clinton St) – EH met with Sarah Fleming (Regional Biologist - Ducks Unlimited) in Batavia on Sept. 1 discuss obtaining funds from their organization for operation and maintenance of the oxbow wetlands (improve for duck habitat?) and also improvements for property - possibly a visitor's center (if stable at site is moved)
3. Storm Drain Stenciling – RR reports the following stenciling activity:
 - 9/6 - RR purchased 1 case of paint – (cost - \$55.80)
 - 9/11, 9/12, 9/23, 9/27 – 95 storm drains stenciled on Pleasantview Dr., Cindy Ln., Crystal Ln., Peters Cir, George Dr., Lexington Green,

Gregory Dr., Collins Ave. (N of Mineral Springs Rd.), Marann Terr.,
Casimer St., Crawford, Boynton, Nash, Electric, North Dr., Inter Dr.

4. Library Display – JM continued obtaining photos for the collage, assisted by DM and his daughter (supplies, photo development costs - \$20.17) - RR suggested that project descriptions be created and affixed to photo collage so that library users can read about projects – display will be set up on 10/3 - also, signup sheets for volunteers/interested parties should be made available, along with our 2011 meeting schedule
5. Ludwig Ave. Creek Access site – DM has scouted site, says access to Cazenovia creek is viable from end of street - RR will ID ownership of parcels
6. Leydecker Rd. Creek Access site – GO inspected site today, reports that no clean up was necessary

V. DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1. Houghton College (810 Union Rd.) – no report
2. 1200 East & West Rd. – status quo – (GR unavailable to report re: status of ownership change for the portion of the parcel that will be transferred to NYSDEC)

VI. FUTURE PROJECTS

1. Evaluation of Town Recycling & Composting Programs – no report
2. Protection of Ash Trees – EH reports that NYSDEC will provide public outreach re: emerald ash borer/ash tree destruction - Erie County Environmental Management Council may assist in this effort

VII. OTHER

1. Earth Day – 4/21/2012 – WSEC will perform cleanups at BNAC, Cazenovia Creek at Ridge Rd
2. BNAC Holiday Open House – 12/29/2011 (10 a.m. – 3 p.m.) – WSEC will have a display table, manned by JM, GO, JO, Steve Kondrak
3. BNAC rain barrels – need to be disconnected, emptied, and stored – RR will empty/disconnect – need to be stored (inverted) at Metz House garage if space is available
4. 2012 WSEC meeting schedule – EH suggested meeting the 4th Tues of each month
5. Seneca Bluffs Buffalo River Natural Habitat Park – 1629 Seneca St. - 10/1/2011 - 9 a.m. - noon) – BNR staff will plant trees, WSEC members are invited to assist with this project

Meeting adjourned – 8:28 P.M.