

W. SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 22 at 7:00 PM

BNAC – 2001 Union Rd., West Seneca

(Minutes Prepared by Lauren Masset)

I. CALL TO ORDER at 7:02pm

I. ATTENDANCE

- a. Members: Evelyn Hicks (EH) *Chairman*, Rick Rutkowski (RR) *Vice-Chairman*, Joyce Mallette (JM), Karl Spencer (KS), Dave Monopolus (DM), Jim Caruso (JC), George Rockey (GR), Steve Kondrak (SK), Jack Oshei (JO)
- b. Associate Members: Lauren Masset (LM), Kyle Hanley (KH)
- c. West Seneca Town Board Liaison: Supervisor Sheila Meegan (SM), Councilman Gene Hart (GH)
- d. Past Members: Paula Olma

I. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Meeting Minutes – August 2013, Sept 2013

Motion by EH, seconded by DM to approve August & September 2013 Minutes

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion carried

2. Financial/Treasurer's Report

JM reported a balance of \$665.00 which is \$285.00 different from Septembers budget. The \$285 was spent on NYS Environmental Conference (Oct 3-5) registrations for EH, JC, RR.

3. Correspondence

- a. EH reports that the DEC will be having a "Back to Basics: How Professionals and Beginners Do It" A workshop for professional, municipal staff, foresters, and community tree enthusiasts. The event will be held at Forest Lawn Cemetery on Friday November 15, 2013. Registration is at 8:00am - Program ends at 2:30. The price for the program is \$35/per person.

EH states that Jerry Krajna from the Buffalo Creek Oxbow Wetland Field Club would like to attend the program. EH also asked the WSEC if any members would like to attend. SK had said he would like to attend. GR said he would check the date on his calendar to see

if he was available. EH states that if any member would like to join, to please RSVP with her by November 1st.

DM makes a motion, seconded by KS for the WSEC to pay for any WSEC members who would like to attend as well as Krajna.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

b. KS thanks LM for doing the minutes, stating that she really did a great job & the WSEC now has a detailed record, an immense improvement.

c. EH thanks DM for providing a delicious dinner for the members prior to the meeting.

4. Office

NO ACTION

I. WSEC MEMBER PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. EH/DM Oxbow (2805 Clinton St.) parcel

EH reports that permission has been granted from National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to extend the grant contract to May 31, 2014 so the current facilitators can continue to help the field-club for a full year (through all seasons).

EH will follow-up with Mark Gaston regarding the downed sign.

LM reports that on October 12 River Academy planted 80 trees on the site. On November 9 the Oxbow will be hosting another event, all are welcome.

2. JM, LM - WSEC library display

JM reports that the WSEC is signed up for the month of April 2014. A theme has not yet been decided but the following suggestions were made:

- RR suggests we incorporate WSEC projects for a theme
- JO suggests we use the Oxbow Field Club as a theme
- JM suggests we use Earth Day as a theme
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JM also stated that the library has offered us their conference room if needed.

3. EH, KS, RR - Environmental Awareness presentation

KS contacted Matt Bystrak to set up dates for the April presentations - awaiting reply. Bystrak would like presentations pushed to May due to testing. They would like to include the 6th grade class as well as extend to a half hour time slot. EH says we will do three half hour programs with ten minutes between each. KS will follow up with Bystrak for further planning. EH questions if it will include slides of giant hogweed, KS says yes he will include them.

4. RR, JC – Stormwater:

a. Illicit Discharges - Cazenovia Creek

RR reports that Ron Entringer (NYSDEC) has advised that a project which corrects the illicit discharge situation on Hi View Terrace and Mill Rd. will not qualify for a Water Quality Improvement Projects grant – RR, JC to meet with NYSDEC representatives to discuss.

RR states he spoke with Rob Locey (NYSDEC) – Locey to discuss issue with Jeff Konsella (Regional Water Engineer) - RR expects a return call from Locey this week.

b. BNAC Rain Barrels

RR discussed signage with Carol Yetter (BNAC), incorporated suggestions (i.e. bullet format), sent to C. Yetter, who approves. EH questions if they will be put on stakes. RR answers that they will be mounted on a 4x4 post. Signs will be produced by Express Signs, and placed in storage until next year as the Rain Barrels have been drained and will be stored for the winter.

5. GR - Boat/canoe/kayak launch site (502 Mineral Springs Rd)

After discussion regarding different variables of the project the group has decided to meet Saturday November 23, 2013. On that morning the group will meet at 9:00am at 502 Mineral Springs Road to walk the site, followed by a meeting which will begin no later than 9:45 a.m. at the Burchfield Nature & Art Center. At that time the group will construct a plan for the project. The meeting will end at 11:30am.

6. SK – Emerald Ash borer issue

EH reports that on Wednesday October 30, 2013 at 5:30pm she will meet with Connie Minor. The focus of the meeting will be the Town of West Seneca applying for a small municipal grant for up to \$25,000. This grant will include funds for tree inventory, as well as tree management. All members are invited to the meeting.

7. (New) Member Projects for 2014

JO will continue the shoreline sweep, and reach out to the Buffalo Creek Oxbow Field Club for manpower.

RR will continue with the Storm Water project.

EH to continue Earth Day project, as well as Oxbow Grant.

LM to continue work at the Oxbow.

RR suggests an added project with focus on zoning code changes incorporating Low Impact Development, which includes Green Infrastructure and Smart Growth.. KS says he will assist with this project.

EH asks GH if we should work on a deer management plan. GH replies that at this time, the town is currently monitoring the deer carcass amount. The town board has decided to not go through with a deer management plan, and if they do otherwise the police department will handle the plan. EH raises the concern of chronic wasting disease. GH reports that deer are not affected by chronic wasting disease in this area.

V. TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – ISSUES/STATUS

1. 1200 East & West Rd. (NY State Developmental Center)

RR reports he was not able to contact Kevin Hintz regarding the solid waste issue at the site. He will attempt to speak with him before our next meeting.

After discussion EH said she will follow up with the NYSDEC representative from Region 9 regarding the transfer of property.

VI. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC

1. Canisius High School Athletic Field – 2885 Clinton St.

After discussion EH reports that the representative from Canisius says the original site plan from five years ago includes all the buildings/fields which are currently built,

those that are now being proposed, as well as those which cannot be afforded yet. EH states the original plan was not approved by the Planning Board, and no further structures should be allowed. Noting that in a previous year a verbal agreement was made at Dave Swift's house that there would be no alteration of the flood plain. Present during this meeting was Ray Staple, and a representative from HB architects. EH says Mr. Brady does not have the authority to go ahead with this. The issue being the added fields to the flood plan (added people, traffic, etc...) as well as a baseball diamond which is made of clay. EH notes that you cannot just mow & build on the flood plain, as it provides habitat and breeding ground for the environment around. RR says we cannot have a true discussion on the issue because all facts are not known at this time. EH says she will gather the facts.

Note: Ray staple is the attorney from Harris Beach who represented Canisius high school in the original proposal. Mr. Brady is an attorney from Harris Beach representing Canisius hs now in 2013. Mr. Brady was not present during the discussion when we met at Dave Swift's house, but Ray staple is the senior partner at Harris beach and would have knowledge of this discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by JC, seconded by DM to adjourn meeting at 8:40pm.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

Next Meeting Date is December 3, 2013