WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, July 28, 2015 at 7:00 PM
Burchfield Nature & Art Center – 2001 Union Rd., West Seneca

I. CALL TO ORDER @ 7:03 PM

II. ATTENDANCE

Members: Evelyn Hicks (EH), Chair, Rick Rutkowski (RR), Vice-Chair, Joyce Mallette (JM), Karl Spencer (KS),Jim Caruso (JC), Steve Kondrak (SK), Lauren Masset (LM)

Associate Member: Mike Wass (MW)

West Seneca Town Board: Councilman Eugene Hart (GH) and Councilman William Hanley (WH)

Excused: Jack O'Shei, David Monolopolus

Guests: Camie Jarrell, Steve Dioia, Jodi Keklak

Steve Dioia gives background on the "Ark Angels" who are looking to partner with the Town of West Seneca to create a community and nature center at the Oxbow Wetland (2735 Clinton St. and/or at the W. Seneca Developmental Center (1200 East and West Rd.)
More information on the group can be found here.

EH states when they are ready to be placed on the agenda they should contact her. The group should be prepared to give a proposal that includes but is not limited to how many visitors, vehicles, etc. are expected. EH questions what has changed since they visited us last year.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Meeting Minutes – April 2015, May 2015, June 2015 - RR asks that members try to review draft minutes, return comments in a timely fashion so that the Commission does not have to table minutes

After suggested edits to April MM motion by EH to approve MM seconded by KS
AYES: ALL QUESTION: NONE NOS: NONE
Motion Carried

Motion to approve May MM by JM seconded by JC

AYES: ALL QUESTION: NONE NOS: NONE

Motion Carried

Motion to approve June MM by RR seconded by KS

AYES: ALL QUESTION: NONE NOS: NONE

Motion Carried

2. 2015 Budget

EH reports the beginning balance for 2015 was $1,500. The current expenditures as of today are $292.47. Remaining balances $1,207.53. Against this is the bill for the storm drain medallions.

National Fish and Wildlife grant balance $2,710.96 to be spent by Fall 2015. Funds from this line will support a computer and items for a fall planting.

US Fish and Wildlife Service -$29,000 for the purchase of the Oxbow property.

3. Correspondence

JM reports Officer Gallagher is in contact with her regarding National Night Out.

EH mailed a thank-you letter to the Southtowns Sewage Treatment Plant for hosting a tour and meeting place for the WSEC last month.

4. Office - Status Quo

IV. WSEC MEMBER PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Oxbow (2805 Clinton St.)

EH met with Margaret Wooster and Bernadette Clabeaux (biologist) to discuss the overgrowth of invasive species. There will be plantings in the fall to attempt to control this issue and clean up the shed. RR reports 14 rain barrels are being stored inside the shed.

2. 2735 Clinton St.

EH reports that the Town is not applying for funding in this round because it requires a 50% match. In lieu of this the group is looking at other smaller grants that do not require such a large match. EH spoke to an appraiser in regards to doing a new appraisal. The cost would be around $400-$500. The appraisal would be on the entire parcel.

LM motions to order an appraisal of the property cost not to exceed $500, seconded by JC

AYES: ALL QUESTION: NONE NOS: NONE

Motion Carried

3. Subcommittee reports:

· Tree Issues Subcommittee – Status Quo

· Creek Awareness Subcommittee - See library section below

· Water Quality Issues Subcommittee:

o Microbeads in Cosmetics – on 7/21, RR provided information re: a proposed local law banning the sale of cosmetic products containing microbeads in Erie County, and a suggested letter of support to members.

Motion by JC, seconded by RR, to send a letter of support from the WSEC to the Erie County Legislature re: this issue

AYES: ALL QUESTION: NONE NOS: NONE

Motion Carried

o Rain Barrels - RR reports 14 rain barrels prepared for distribution, 2 provided to residents. JM reports there have been 3 rain barrel winners at the library.

o Municipal Rain Barrels – The Kiwanis Youth Center rain barrel will be relocated to the library.

o Storm Drain Medallions – week of 7/19 - RR, JC affixed 104 medallions to 15 town streets – 7/21- RR sent press release re: storm drain marking to W.S Bee, W.S. Sun – published in 7/23 issue of W.S. Bee

o Water Quality Issues slideshow – completed by JO

o Illicit Discharges (Cazenovia Creek) – 7/8 - RR discussion with Rob Locey (NYSDEC) – no NYSDEC enforcement of issue

o Canoe/Kayak launch site (880 Harlem Rd.)– on 7/24, RR met with NYSDOT, NYSDEC staff – initial discussion re: conceptual plans for constructing a canoe/kayak launch –discussed site location (access path to creek, staging area), materials, Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, possible funding sources.

4. Library Display and Presentations

On July 21st, Creek Awareness/Hogweed presentation given by EH and KS to a full room at the WS Library. JO gave a presentation on residential water conservation. The presentations were well received by those in attendance. A discussion re: conducting another public education event in 2015 was entertained.

5. National Night Out (8/4)

M. Rossi (ECDEP) to provide stormwater outreach materials. RR, JC will transport stuffed animals from the BNAC to the event

V. Other Projects

1. W. Seneca Developmental Center - (1200 East & West Rd.) - Status Quo

2. National Grid – Gardenville Station Upgrade

RR provided concerns re: draft agreement (Nat'l. Grid/W. Seneca) to Town Board, MOA approved by Town Board on 6/29/2015. The agreement with National Grid for funding of wetlands mitigation support actions, noting National Grid will contribute $80,000 to the town to fund planning and execution of certain components of National Grid's compensatory wetlands mitigation plan. More information can be found here.

3. 2544 Clinton St. – application for rezoning tabled by the Planning Board.

VII. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC

1. 1. RR reports that, during storm drain marking, he and JC saw a muddy storm drain retention pond, possibly due to a large soil stockpile which appeared to have no erosion control, adjacent to Chancellor Lane – he reported this to the Town Engineering office. EH and GH asked that he also report this issue to John Gullo (Town Code Enforcement Officer) for investigation/enforcement.

Motion to close at 8:45 PM by RR seconded by KS

AYES: ALL QUESTION: NONE NOS: NONE

Motion Carried