

W. SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, August 26, 2014 at 7:00 PM
BNAC – 2001 Union Rd., West Seneca
Prepared By Lauren Masset

I. CALL TO ORDER@ 7:05pm

II. ATTENDANCE

Members: Evelyn Hicks (EH), Chair, Rick Rutkowski (RR), Vice-Chair, Joyce Mallette (JM), Karl Spencer (KS), Dave Monopolus (DM), Jim Caruso (JC), George Rockey (GR), Steve Kondrak (SK), Jack Oshei (JO)

Associate Members: Lauren Masset (LM)

West Seneca Town Board Members : Gene Hart (GH), William Hanley (WH)

Guest: Matt Amoia (MA)

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Meeting Minutes – June 2014, July 2014

Motion to approve June and July 2014 meeting minutes by RR seconded by JC

Ayes: All

On The Question: None

Noes:None

Motion Carried

2. Expiring Commission memberships

EH contacted the Town Board as well as provided them with all needed information. GH reports the discussed it to the Town Attorney of for the replacement terms as well as if members could be added. As it stands current members will hold their positions until January 2015.

3. Financial/Treasurer's Report

JM reports an official balance of \$1500.00

\$1362.04 (unofficially) remains in budget - \$7.97 spent to purchase wood for BNAC rain barrel sign post.

4. Correspondence

RR e-mailed info re: Tonawanda Creek Watershed Tour to members on 8/6, KS e-mailed info re: Citizen Preparedness Training to members on 8/18,

5. Office

EH reports the WSEC office may be moved into a recently vacant office in a different section of the Burchfield Nature & Art Center.

6. National Night Out

Aug. 5, 2014 attending were JC, JO, SK, RR, JM, LM, EH, and Mary Rossi (Erie Co Dept of Env. and Planning) – 11 visitors to the booth indicated that they would like to receive a rain barrel.

EH suggests looking for new(er) taxidermy animals, as the current animals are worn.

JC motions if there is money left over at the end of the year, to look for taxidermy animals to purchase. Seconded by KS.

AYES: ALL

ON THE QUESTION: NONE

NOES: NONE

Motion Carried

IV. WSEC MEMBER PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Oxbow (2805 Clinton St.) parcel

EH reports an \$800.00 invoice was received from Audubon Society for Bird Study and it will be paid from National Fish and Wildlife Federation grant. The Audubon will schedule a bird watching event in the upcoming months.

RR questions if the land around the Oxbow is amenable to plant milkweed due to the monarch butterflies. EH will collect milk seeds from her home, prep and save them for next year.

2. West Seneca Developmental Center (1200 East & West Road)

123 acres of natural area will be transferred from dormitory authority to DEC as a permanent wildlife refuge. It will be called the "Cazenovia Creek Management Area".

GR spoke to Mark Kandell from DEC, the paperwork is currently on his desk for review and approval.

GH reports Building 9 has been opened for police training.

3. National Grid – Gardenville Station Upgrade Project

After discussion... RR asked that National Grid reps be requested to notify us of their results in their attempt to obtain a variance from the NYSDEC regulation which requires on site mitigation within the Meyer Rd Wetland – EH advised that she would contact them with this request.

JC motion for EH to contact National Grid to move forward with original proposed plan

AYES: 9

ON THE QUESTION: NONE

NOES: GR

Motion Carried

4. Subcommittee reports:

· Tree Issues Subcommittee

Guest speaker Dan Bauer showed a Powerpoint presentation, and provided comments to our draft Town Tree Ordinance.

KS to rewrite current draft of Tree Ordinance revisions, then sending them out to the Tree Subcommittee, WSEC, and town attorney for review.

· Water Quality Issues Subcommittee:

o **Rain Barrels**- rain barrel installed at the Kiwanis Bldg (8/12), rain barrel sign installed at the BNAC (8/19) – Ken Hansen repaired the 2 rain barrels at Children's Memorial Park (8/16)

o **Illicit Discharges (Cazenovia Creek)** RR spoke with Rob Locey (DEC) sampling will begin shortly (upstream and downstream in creek, also upstream in storm sewer shed).

o **Boat/canoe/kayak launch site** – RR evaluated, took photos of potential launch site at 880 Harlem Rd. (NYSDEC fishing access site). GR attended June Community Churches (DOT) meeting, they are looking to put a retention pond at fishermans park which will feed into Buffalo Creek. GR requested that a small path is put in for a kayak/canoe launch. EH questions if stream bank stabilization was discussed where Buffalo and Cayuga creek meet,

GR responds that was not discussed. EH questions what type of surface this would be, GR states it would be a small dirt path. EH states who is going to maintain the path, GR states it will be maintained by foot-traffic. GH questions how will this be handicap accessible, GR states it will not be. WH states he spoke to Mr. Fontana for the boat launch previously mentioned on his property. EH would like to look at Fontanas property for the launch.

V. TOWN ISSUES

1. Patio Homes (3858, 3863, 3869 Clinton St.)

Town Clerk J. Felser advised that the Town Board tabled this matter at the 8/11/14 meeting. Town Code Enforcement Officer J. Schieber advised that preliminary approval was given by the Planning Board. Business was then told to “proceed with drawings” to seek final site plan approval. Those plans have not been submitted to the Town yet.

2. 117 French Rd. (GeoThermal Plant)

Town Clerk J. Felser advised that the Planning Board recommended denial of this project – it will be on the Town Board agenda for the 9/8/14 meeting

3.. Shell Fab & Design (2855 Clinton St) expansion

Town Code Enforcement Officer J. Schieber advised that preliminary approval was given by the Planning Board. Business was then told to “proceed with drawings” to seek final site plan approval. Those plans have not been submitted to the Town yet"

3. Buffalo Bioenergy - Moratorium

JC sent out an article from the NYSDEC stating that EPA said using biosolids as fertilizer is the most beneficial and most widely used method - approximately 50% of all biosolids are used as fertilizer. This method also reduces the need for chemical fertilizers on most farms. .

EH spoke to Nate Carr (manager) he would like the WSEC members to meet there September 23 at 5:30pm. A site tour, planning concepts, etc will be given. If any one has questions prior to the meeting, they are to be sent to EH.

Other:

RR questions if the WSEC received site plans for the approved DePaul facility on Seneca Street. RR requests that when a new development project comes in, it is sent to WSEC members.

VI. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC

KS mentions he received complaints from residents on Main Street about the Ice Rink compressor. EH states the noise levels were tested, EH also states he will visit the Ice Rink.

Motion to call to a close by JM seconded by RR

Ayes: ALL

On The Question: NONE

Noes: NONE

Motion Carried

TIME: 8:29PM



