

**W. SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at 7:00 PM**

**BNAC – 2001 Union Rd., West Seneca**

Prepared By Lauren Masset

**I. CALL TO ORDER @ 7:14pm**

**II. ATTENDANCE**

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

Associate Members: Lauren Masset (LM), Matt Amoia (MA),

West Seneca Town Board: Sheila Meegan (SM), Gene Hart (GH)

Guest: Steve Jaworski

**III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES**

**1. Meeting Minutes**

December 2013, January 2014

RR Motion to approve, seconded by JM

Ayes: ALL

On the Question: NONE

Noes: NONE

**Motion Carried**

**2. Annual Report STATUS QUO**

**3. Expiring Commission memberships**

EH to have a discussion with the town board in regards to the conflict with expiration dates.

RR sent Jan 2010 meeting minutes to EH, Gene Hart identifying Dec 31 as expiration dates for WSEC members

GH suggests having a term which expires every year, EH comments that the town law is written for two year terms.

EH requests that anyone interested in being re-appointed or in resigning please inform the town board via written letter mailed to the town clerk.

**4. Financial/Treasurer's Report**

JM reports a balance of \$1500.

Motion to approve JC, seconded by KS

Ayes: ALL

On the Question: NONE

Noes: NONE

**Motion Carried**

**5. Correspondence**

NONE

6. **Office, Educational Event (Stormwater Conference- 3/19/14)**

NONE

IV. **WSEC MEMBER PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION**

1. **Oxbow (2805 Clinton St.) parcel**

- EH reports the WSEC two goals this summer will be (1) knock down phragmites (2) support the field club
- LM reports there is a meeting this Thursday February 27, 2014 at 6pm. The meeting will be held at the BNAC.

2. **WSEC library display (April 2014)**

- JM reports "The Buffalo Postal Group" has the display window at the library prior to the WSEC, she will contact someone from that organization to see if they could remove the weekend prior to April 1. JM will contact WSEC members to see if they would like their projects featured in the display before the end of March.

3. **Environmental Awareness presentation**

- KS reports the presentation will include benefits of the creek, danger of low head dams, and the danger of hog week. The presentation will take place at West Seneca West Middle School on May 16, 2014 at 8:30am the audience will be 6,7, and 8 graders. KS requests that EH be present, he believes it would be beneficial because last time there were a lot of questions. EH replies she should be able to attend. EH questions if he has a contact (student) from West Seneca West Senior High School, JO responds he has reached out to a friend has yet to hear a reply - he will reach out again soon.

4. **Storm water**

- **BNAC Rain Barrel signage** - RR to obtain from vendor, store at BNAC
- **Illicit Discharges - Cazenovia Creek** RR prepared letter to Town Board and distributed to WSEC members. After discussion re:letter edits;
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Motion to approve DM, seconded by KS to send letter to West Seneca Town Board

Ayes: ALL

On the Question: NONE

Noes: NONE

**Motion Carried**

DM seconded by KS to send letter to West Seneca Town Board

5. **Boat/canoe/kayak launch site (0 Bishop PI.) STATUS QUO**

6. **Tree inventory Subcommittee status**

- KS reports the first meeting will be held April 8 at 7pm, held at the BNAC. The meeting is open to the public.

7. **(New) Member Projects for 2014:**

- Subcommittee formulation: RR believes a water quality issues is essential based on past, present, and future projects by the group, and will head the subcommittee – to be joined by JC,DM,SK, JO

## **V. NATIONAL GRID**

1. **Rebuild Project** – Meyer Rd. Wetland Protection Measures
  - Chuck Rosenberg (NYSDEC) advised RR that the preliminary schedule for beginning of construction is April 2016
  - Prior to tonight’s meeting National Grid presented a project overview for the Gardenville Station.

## **VI. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC**

- JO reports the shoreline sweep (cleanup) will take place on April 16 from 9am - 12pm. This event will take place rain or shine. Two shoreline sweeps will take place (1) BNAC (2) Ridge Road/Orchard Park Rd.
- GH would like to discuss a potential project with Buffalo GeoThermal LLC (located on William St. in Cheektowaga). They are the company who is proposing a new project at 17 French Rd.. What they are proposing is a commercial “new build” facility. The building itself “comes up out of the ground”, the offices will be located in that level while manufacturing will take place underground. The company says it is “environmentally friendly” and energy efficient. GH suggested to the company to have a community meeting with those in the area it may affect (i.e: neighbors, WSEC, etc..) A majority of this area will be green space. This heating/cooling method is widely used in Europe. GH reports Councilman Hanley is meeting with the group tomorrow to discuss the project in greater detail. RR questions if this will fit the master plan, and why can't they go up the street to a commercial zoned area. GH replies that it does fit the master plan, and that there is no current commercial property for sale that fits their needs. KS questions why the property is so important to them;; if this property wasn't available would they go somewhere else? GH answers that they are going to sit down with community leaders and discuss the location. The company does no manufacturing, they want to sell the equipment - this location provides exposure to potential customers (i.e. traffic on Clinton St.). The property also has the proper soil and moisture composition for the business. EH questions the size of the building and number of parking spaces. GH answers it is 11,000 sq feet and parking spaces are built into the plan. EH replies that the business determines how many parking spots they will need and may ask for a variance for less parking. GH believes this is a great project, however he does not want to approve a project that does not have community support.
- EH reports that the 2400 Seneca Street project will be going to the planning board.

**CALL TO CLOSE @ 8:36pm**

Motion to approve RR, seconded by KS

Ayes: *ALL*

On the Question: *NONE*

Noes: *NONE*

***Motion Carried***