

WEST SENECA TOWN OFFICES
1250 Union Road
West Seneca, NY 14224

TOWN BOARD PROCEEDINGS
Work Session
May 9, 2016

Supervisor Meegan called the work session to order at 3:00 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Margaret Wooster.

ROLL CALL: Present - Sheila M. Meegan Supervisor
Eugene P. Hart Councilman
William P. Hanley Jr. Councilman
John Fenz Town Attorney
Jacqueline A. Felser Town Clerk
Matthew D English Highway Sup't.
John Gullo Code Enforcement Officer
Daniel Denz Police Chief
Steven Tanner Town Engineer
Mary Josefiak Senior Recreation Therapist of
Senior Services
Lauren Masset Youth Service Coordinator
Kandace Wittmeyer Assessor

Supervisor Meegan read the Fire Prevention Code instructing the public where to exit in case of a fire or an emergency.

ASSESSOR KANDACE WITTMAYER

- Outlined recent changes to the STAR program
 - ✓ Law passed April 1, 2016 requiring new homeowners to apply with New York State to receive a refund check for the STAR exemption
 - ✓ STAR exemptions will be removed from properties purchased after March 2, 2015
 - ✓ The town is responsible for notifying property owners they have until July 1, 2016 to apply with the state to receive refund checks in September; however, NYS website is not yet setup
 - ✓ Assessor's office has identified 480 properties this affects
 - ✓ Press releases will be forthcoming to educate residents on the changes

DR. MARGARET WOOSTER, UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO, WATERFRONT PRESENTATION

- Gave the attached power point presentation on "Environmental Conservation Planning in West Seneca, NY" with students Joe McGrath and Tom Mascari from her graduate class, Urban Planning & Environmental Change

TOWN ENGINEER STEVEN TANNER

- Theresa Court reconstruction has begun
- Boncroft Drive water project is about seventy percent complete, services will be transferred starting today
- East & West Road and Angle Road project is underway

SENIOR CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER JOHN GULLO

- Disaster Office is hosting a hands on CPR training on May 18th from 5 PM to 8 PM

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YOUTH SERVICE COORDINATOR LAUREN MASSET

- Summer Day Camp has some availability
- Registration is underway for the Summer Fun Program and swim lessons
- Open interviews will be conducted for summer positions on May 11th from 2 PM – 4 PM, and May 12th from 10 AM – 12 PM. Information is available on the town's website and social media pages.

SENIOR RECREATION THERAPIST OF SENIOR SERVICES MARY JOSEFIK

- Accepting applications for van drivers
- Food and treat drive to send to troops in Kuwait

COUNCILMAN WILLIAM HANLEY

- Requested clarification on the construction of the police garage addition

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Supervisor Meegan, seconded by Councilman Hart, to recess to executive session at 4:00 P.M. to discuss a personnel issue and contractual matter.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

The board members returned from executive session at 6:45 P.M.

The work session concluded at 6:45 P.M.

JACQUELINE A FELSER, TOWN CLERK



Environmental Conservation Planning in West Seneca, NY

A presentation to the West Seneca Town Board, May 9, 2016

by

UB School of Architecture and Planning: "Urban Planning & Environmental Change" seminar
Joe McGrath, Tom Mascari, Tony Parker, Todd Sileo, Michaela Sweeney, Eric Tocco, Crystal Middleton
Dr. Margaret Wooster

Natural resource and sustainability objectives in the Town of West Seneca 2016 Comprehensive Plan

- Protect major Creeks and Floodplains
- Strengthen and support the Town's park system
- Preserve areas of rural character and open space
- Identify and protect important habitats, green space, trees, and woodlots
- Improve public access to environmental features
- Educate the community on the value and significance of the Town's natural resources
- Incorporate environmentally friendly development practices and standards

Recommendation 1: Adopt a Floodplain Overlay District

PROMOTES:

- **Sustainability:** Strengthens and implements Town policy with a legally-binding, clear boundary.
- **Safety:** Protects human life, health, property and resources.
- **Water Quality:** Minimizes stream pollution and bank erosion.
- **Connectivity:** Supports fish & wildlife habitat as well as Greenway/recreation opportunities.
- **Resilience:** Works with functional stream dynamics and mitigates the effects of extreme weather events (such as ice/flooding – Winter, 2015).

Existing Buffalo Creek



Potential Trail Connection



Photo courtesy: TFLD Ltd.

Along with West Seneca, will also improve public access to the creek.

It is also recommended that the Town adopt Floodplain Overlay District policies to be effective. The Floodplain Overlay District is needed to limit future development along the creek. The intent of the district is to protect the floodways and floodplains from further development pressures and changes, while also protecting wetlands. The study on basis of a resolution is presented below.

One way the Town can achieve this is by adopting a Floodplain Overlay District, which is a type of purpose statement for a Floodplain Overlay District that is included below.

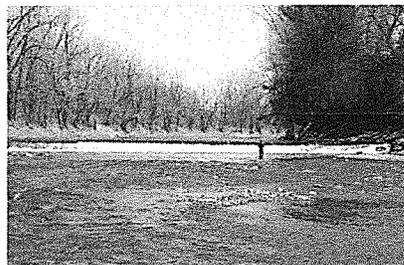
Floodplain Overlay (FPO) District

Certain areas of the Town are subject to periodic flooding and are in need of special protection. Such areas include the floodplains of the Buffalo Creek and other waterways. The purpose of this district is to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare of the Town by regulating the use of land in these areas. The district is intended to protect the floodplains of the Buffalo Creek and other waterways from development that would be likely to result in flooding or other damage to the public health, safety, and general welfare of the Town. The district is intended to protect the floodplains of the Buffalo Creek and other waterways from development that would be likely to result in flooding or other damage to the public health, safety, and general welfare of the Town.

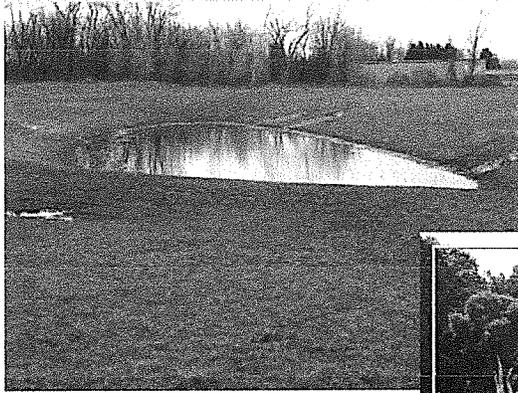
1. Protect the health, safety and welfare of the community.
2. Minimize flood damage to property and structures.
3. Encourage the use of flood-resistant construction techniques.
4. Minimize the potential for development that would be likely to result in flooding or other damage to the public health, safety, and general welfare of the Town.
5. Encourage the use of flood-resistant construction techniques.
6. Minimize the potential for development that would be likely to result in flooding or other damage to the public health, safety, and general welfare of the Town.

Recommendation 2: Apply Ecological Landscape Design Guidelines to Stormwater Retention Ponds within 100 feet of Floodplains

- Water quality testing results from Buffalo Niagara Riverwatch Program indicate 77% of Buffalo Creek samples are outside the acceptable range for turbidity.
- Aquatic life and recreation are negatively impacted by known silt and sediment pollution (turbidity) and suspected nutrient and pathogen pollution associated with stormwater runoff.
- Preserving riparian natural areas and constructing enhancing retention ponds with native vegetation will filter runoff and provide habitat for turtles, frogs and other aquatic species, enhancing functional values of stream corridors

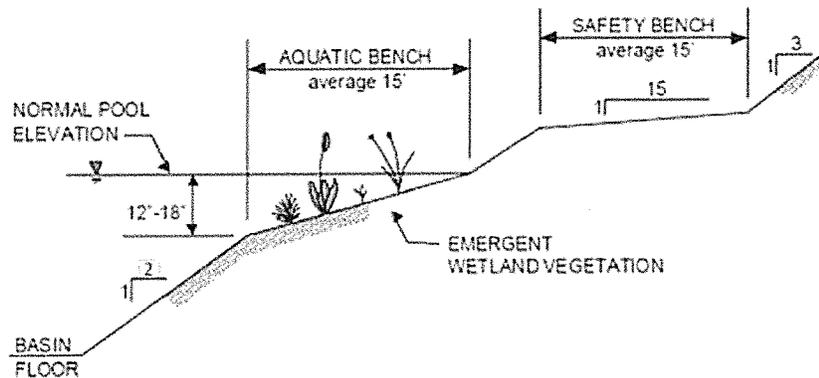


What Are the *Benefits* of an Ecologically Landscaped Retention Pond?



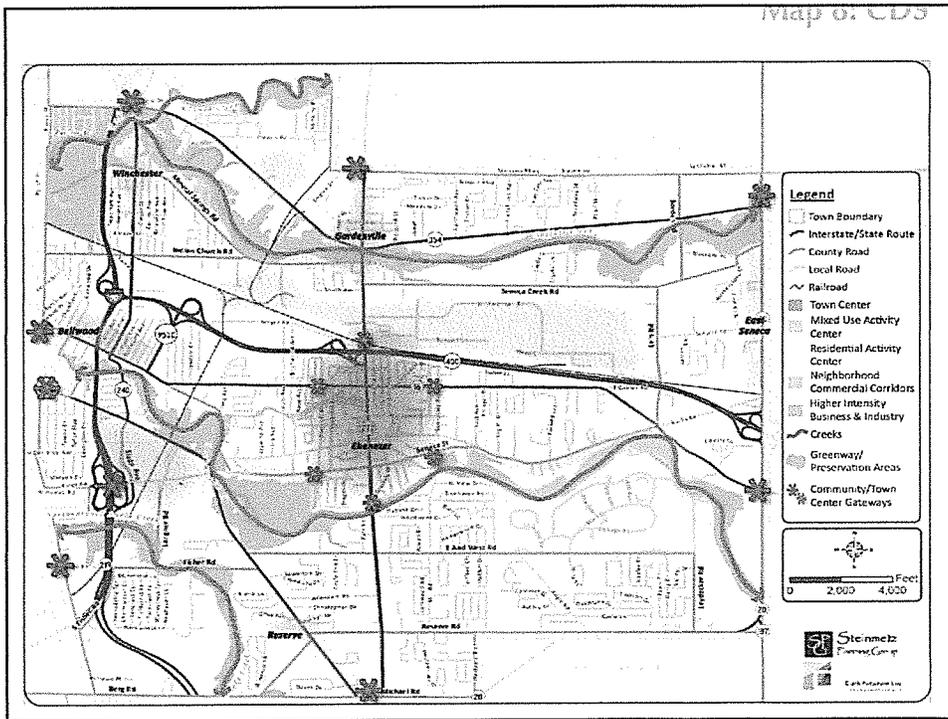
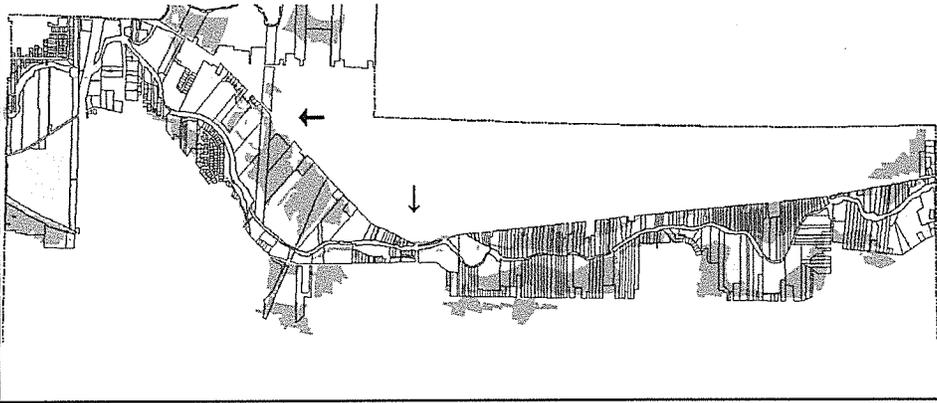
- Improved water quality
- Decreased stream bank erosion
- Reduced flood risks
- Habitat for wildlife

Diagram of a safe and environmentally-friendly Stormwater Retention Pond
(NYS DEC Stormwater Management Design Manual, Jan. 2015)



Recommendation 3: Transfer of Development Rights

Undeveloped high risk (flooding, ice jamming) areas—for example, along Buffalo Creek west of Union Rd.—can be designated as a Reserved Open Space Sector whose development rights can be transferred to desired growth areas already well served by infrastructure and public services. This can decrease Town costs and preserve Town character, open space, green infrastructure and quality of life.



Recommendation 4: Use Buffalo Creek oxbow wetland as a prime opportunity area for expanding protected greenspace.

Ongoing activities include bird, amphibian and reptile surveys, stewardship (native seed collection, restoration planing, invasives removal), and partnerships with local high schools.

The Town already owns part of the oxbow wetland which has a 10-Year Restoration Plan (*Oxbow Habitat Restoration Plan*, Ecology and Environment, Inc. Dec. 2010)

NY 828

Aerial view of Buffalo Creek meander between New York Central Railroad and Haslem Road. Buildings for Sutrowood Co. Bakery property on Clinton Street, near Gardenville, Erie County, New York. May 28 1954. WDAI, SOS Ronan J photo - Gordon S. Suttell



Funding Opportunities

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative: EPA, USFWS & NFWF (National Fish and Wildlife Fund)

- Action Plan II for Fiscal Years 2015-19 provides funding for habitat restoration, invasive species management, and stormwater mitigation

Niagara Greenway Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Fund (HERF)

- Funds projects that “address the impacts of power project operations on the ecology of the Niagara River and its tributary watershed.”

North American Wetland Conservation Act – US FWS

- Standard and small grants - can be used to acquire property
- Focus is on Species in Greatest Conservation Need

NAWCA provided \$50,000 towards acquisition and improvements in two Erie County wetlands. →

