

WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 7:00 PM

West Seneca Community Center – 1300 Union Rd., West Seneca

CALL TO ORDER – 7:02 p.m.

I. ATTENDANCE

Evelyn Hicks (EH) Chair, Rick Rutkowski (RR) Vice-Chair, Cynn timer Gaasch (CG), Tracy Skalski (TS), Jacqueline Balikowski (JB), Mike Wass (MW)

Town Council: Jeff Piekarec (JP)

Absent: Patrick Healy (PH)

Guests: Nancy Del Monte, Danielle Bagley, John Roberts (Sr.), John Roberts (Jr.), Logan Wittmann, Sam Favata

II. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Meeting Minutes — March 2022 - approved by members
2. Financial Report – as per MW (all funds verified via W.S. Finance Dept.):
 - 2022 WSEC Working Budget – \$1000.00
 - Town Environmental funds:
 - National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF) – \$2,710.76
 - US Fish & Wildlife Service - \$29,000.00
 - National Grid Mitigation Fund - \$61,000.00
3. Correspondence:
 - e-mail re: food wastes rec'd. – EH will forward to WSEC members
 - e-mail rec'd from resident re: pending lawsuit against Town pertaining to SEQR
4. 2015, 2018, 2019, 2020 Annual Reports – FOIL request Rec'd – EH to send draft Annual Reports to WSEC for review/comments
5. Membership – 3 vacancies exist on WSEC – RR, PH, MW, 1 vacant position to expire on 12/31/22 - , EH, TS, CG, JB to expire on 12/31/23
6. Chairperson – EH will resign from position by 12/31/22

III. WSEC PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Oxbow (2805 Clinton St.) – RR would like members to consider a project re: planting (milkweed) seeds, other plants that attract butterflies at site this year - also, will notify M. Gaston of damaged signs along N. side of creek bank
2. Standing Subcommittee reports:
 - Tree Issues Subcommittee – no activity
 - Education Subcommittee:
 - Environmental Corner – topics to be developed for the website:
 - Downspout Disconnect from Residences (RR)
 - Butterfly Friendly Homes (RR)
 - Reducing Pesticide Use at Residences (TS)
 - Recycling Best Management Practices (TS, CG)
 - Creek Awareness and Safety - EH will send powerpoint presentation to WSEC for review and comments
 - Water Quality Issues Subcommittee:
 - Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Launch – 880 Harlem Rd. – RR advised by NYSDEC that improvements to launch site are in their 2022 Operations work plan – however, due to staffing shortages, work may not be initiated/completed

- Residential Rain Barrels – RR plans to distribute to WS residents affiliated with the Southtowns Gardeners club
 - Municipal Rain Barrels – MW reports that C. Yetter requests a delay installing the Rain barrel as repair to the building is ongoing
 - Storm Drain Marking – RR will discuss medallions maintenance program for summer 2022 with B Adams (Hwys.)
3. New WSEC Grant opportunities – Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper (BNW) has \$75 K in grant funds to address Buffalo creek flooding mitigation (Buffalo Creek Reconnection Resilient New York Grant Project) – EH attended 3/8 virtual meeting (pre-proposal – 19 potential consultants attended) – afterwards, EH and Katherine Winkler (BNW) discussed potential outcomes for the project – K. Winkler to provide overview of grant at 3/28 TB meeting

IV. TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1. 889 Indian Church Rd – (NYSEG Substation) – no information currently – RR will contact J. Scheiber (W. Sen Code Enforcement Officer) to obtain site plans

V. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC:

1. April 23 – 10-noon - Creek Cleanup program – Buffalo creek @ BNAC, Cazenovia creek at Ridge & Orchard Park Rds. – people interested in participating should contact the BNW staff (register at BNW website)
2. Town Deer Task Force – meetings ongoing – CG reports that completion of a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) sheet is expected by April 30 – to be posted on Town website
3. Biking in W. Seneca – no new information

Adjourned – 8:15 p.m.