

# WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 23, 2022 at 7:00 PM

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

## I. ATTENDANCE:

Evelyn Hicks (EH) Chair, Rick Rutkowski (RR) Vice-Chair, (JB), Patrick Healy (PH), Danielle Bagley (DB), Ryan Harrington (RH)

Absent/Excused: Cynn timer Gaasch, Tracy Skalski, Jacqueline Balikowski

Town Council Liason: Jeff Piekarec (JP)

Guests: Nancy Del Monte, Leane Schultz, Peter Holdsworth

## II. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Meeting Minutes — April 2022, June 2022 – approved by members
2. Financial Report – as per EH:
  - 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. Membership –1 vacancy exists on WSEC – as per JP, to be filled at end of 2022
4. Correspondence - none

## III. WSEC PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Oxbow (2805 Clinton St.) – 5/25 - RR sent ltr to Town Board requesting formation of a nature sanctuary at site – JP advises that request is being reviewed/researched by Town Attorney
2. Standing Subcommittee reports:
  - Creek Awareness and Safety – N. Del Monte will e-mail draft powerpoint presentation to WSEC for review
  - Water Quality Issues Subcommittee:
    - Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Launch – 880 Harlem Rd. – on 7/7, EH attended a NYSDEC, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeepers (BNW) meeting at site – topic : improvements to kayak launch area - M. Todd (NYSDEC) advised re: conceptual improvements discussed
      - Placement of stairway where people cut over the bank from the parking lot
      - Better signage at start and mid-path to direct users down established path
      - Launch improvements including additional stairs up the bank (from existing launch stairs) and additional rip rap to protect new stairs.
      - Invasive plant treatments (primarily knotweed)
    - Residential Rain Barrels – 2 remain in storage

## IV. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC

1. National Nite Out -Aug 2 - WSEC participants – EH, TS, DB, PH, RR
2. Biking safety – RR draft ltr (to NYS officials re: improved safety measures) e-mailed to members – ideas: needs bike clubs approval, lobbying/networking
3. Re Tree in Town Parks (to replace dead ash trees) – EH asked DB to research criteria (i.e. species, time frames available) and report at our September meeting
4. Buffalo Creek Floodplain Reconnection – public meeting (Aug 22, 2022) – presentation by K. Winkler (BNW) - attended by EH – **goal**: to reduce long term flood risk of adjacent neighborhoods by installing floodplain benches

Adjourned – 8:10 p.m.