

WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at 7:00 PM
West Seneca Community Center – 1300 Union Road, West Seneca

MEMBERS – Cynn timer Gaasch (CG) Chair, Jacqueline Balikowski (JB), Patrick Healy (PH), Danielle Bagley (DB), (youth member) Ryan Harrington (RH)
ASSOCIATE MEMBER: Nancy Delmonte
Town Council Liaison: Jeff Piekarec (JP)
Additional Members of the public in attendance

AGENDA

I. Welcome

7:00 pm Call to Order, introductions of members and public

Lack of quorum for voting

II. Approval of September Meeting Minutes

Motion by Harrington, second by Balikowski-approved.

III. Issues of the Public

Quality of life issues-SONWIL project discussion of lighting and light pollution.

IV. of approach for conducting a new strategic plan for the WSEC

- Potential process (past experiences)
 - i. Assessment SWOT;
Strength, weakness, opportunities, threats
-Chair suggested a six-nine month planning process, considering commission bylaw's, town codes, speaking with other municipalities, consultation with university groups and NYS DEC, also input from community, and Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper. Discussion of putting aside some of the 2022 budget for bringing in a consultant for public education meetings.
 - ii. Stakeholder meetings
 - iii. Quality of life issues; traffic
 - iv. SEQR process
 - v. Look at best practices factual information from the community.
- Information gathering
- Bylaws http://www.westseneca.net/application/files/5415/4038/7871/Bylaws_Rev._1_-_9-30-18.pdf
- Town Code <http://www.westseneca.net/departments-and-services/environmental-commission#established>
- Public strategic planning session(s).

- Environmental Commission Member roles.
- 6-9 month process.

V. Discuss potential purchases with \$1,000 in 2022 budget

- Repairing taxidermy or different displays.
- Training with Cornell Cooperative - Courses with Master Gardeners are \$75 each. \$225. Encumber it. Lissa Strauss Finance Director.
- Allocate \$500 to pay for an outside facilitator to conduct a public strategic planning session
- Pollinator Garden estimates for classes. Danielle is reaching out to Elbers. Soil and Water Conservation District sells saplings.
 - i. Town survey-on the deer survey community was concerned with development
 - ii. What location.

Motion to move forward with this by Balikowski 2nd by Harrington.

Further discussion on looking for a public meetings facilitator and other methods for listening to public.

Discussion on commission purchases WS Finance has a credit card or we can do a voucher for classes, there are 3 classes over the winter. Member Bagley is interested in pollinator garden, perhaps we can pre-order.

Motion to authorize Bagley to get quotes for presentation at November meeting.

VI. Commission Member Renewals

Chair-reminded members to send letter to town Board if they are expiring and wish to be considered for re-appointment. Those whose terms are expiring (even though some are new and are replacements mid term) Rick Rutkowski, Patrick Healy, Danielle Bagley, Ryan Harrington

VII. Reports for ongoing projects

- Retree WNY - Bagley updated on the trees planting Nov. 5 at 10am weather permitting Bagley and go bikes will be bringing tree's back to town and the town highway will be planting. Town Board Approved Motion attached. Commission members, volunteers, needed dependent on number of trees variety will include scarlet, jewel, autumn fire, emerald lusk
- Erie County Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener provides workshops being planned for Winter 2023. Gardening with Deer in Mind, Native Plants Gardening, and Environmentally friendly planting workshops being coordinated. Cost of \$75 for each class. Workshops will be scheduled when the Town meeting schedule is set.
- Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper also offers workshops that we could also offer in partnership. <https://bnwaterkeeper.org/school-programs/>

- Tracy and Danielle are meeting with Justin Booth of Go Bike and Chris Holmes of West Seneca Bikes on November 1 regarding opportunities, next steps to advocate for bike friendly streets in WS, and Center Road.

VIII. Governance

- Monday evenings at 6pm, scheduled around Town Board Meetings has been requested for 2023
- Election of Officers in January, per Bylaws
- Vacancy of Treasurer
Balikowski agreed to take on this role

IX. New Business

- Approve moving to 9 meetings per year
Discussion to not meet in December, January or August.
Motion by Bagley and 2nd by Balikowski to this schedule and move meeting time to earlier.

- x. Adjourn 8:09 pm motion by chair 2nd by Balikowski

Next Meeting: November 29, 2022, 7pm