

WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WSEC) MEETING AGENDA

September 30, 2024

6:30 PM in the Large Meeting Room, West Seneca Community Center

MEMBERS – Robert Amadon - Chair, Danielle Bagley, Evelyn Hicks, Barbara Lipiew, Thomas Mudd, Jr., Adam Reger, Ryan Taylor, Ben Szablewski

Town Board Liaison: Scott Robertson

Agenda

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Approval of June 10, 2024 meeting minutes
- 3) Issues of the Public
- 4) Correspondence
- 5) Ongoing Commission Projects
 - a. Bikes
 1. Letter from West Seneca Bikes forwarded to the Town Board in March 2023 with several recommendations regarding safe bike travel in West Seneca. The Environmental Commission has not received feedback from the Town Board. The Town Council Liaison to find out status of this. - Scott Robertson
 - b. Trees
 1. Latest update on NYSDEC Grant for Tree Inventory, and Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP) is that the grant writer (Rotella Grants) has indicated we have the green-light to proceed. Need several commission members on the grant project team. See tree grant partnership commitment letter Rev 6.5.23, and the grant application for more details. Activities will include:
 - Attending project team meetings with town government / department team members. First one should be scheduled for early to mid October.
 - Put together a press release in conjunction with the town supervisor's office, to inform the public about the grant. This will be provided to West Seneca Bee, Buffalo News, posted on the Facebook page and the Environmental Corner.
 - Assisting with the request for proposals (RFP) to select the certified arborist company to perform the tree inventory.
 - Taking photos to collect a diverse sampling of the Town's trees in town right-of-ways and town parks to be used for the UFMP.
 - On-going support for scheduling and participating in public meetings, including the initial project kick-off meeting with the selected arborist, and Town team members, and other public meetings when significant project milestones are completed. West Seneca Bee to be invited to these public meetings.
 - For public outreach, prepare an Outreach Strategy to encourage more volunteerism and urban forestry awareness throughout the community.
 - Other relative tasks as identified during the grant implementation.

- b. Trees (continued)
 2. Recommendations for revised tree list and update of town codes to reference it. Town Board deferred to the town attorney for review. What is the status of this?
- Scott Robertson
- c. Education
 1. National Night Out support - Evelyn Hicks
 2. Other opportunities?
- d. Waterways
 1. The commission will have 160 storm drain medallions (markers) to install on curb locations for storm drains. Many markers are missing and need replacement. Some have lost the paint finish and are difficult to read. Discuss the following:
 - This will be a high maintenance project with additional yearly costs.
 - Markers cost about \$7.00 each, adhesives are about \$11 per tube, one tube installs about 12 medallions (per marker company installation sheet). Roughly \$8.00 per medallion installed cost. Does not include costs for personal protective equipment, tools, and materials for clean-up (mineral spirits).
 - Suggest the town attorney be consulted about any liability concerns.
 - ◆ The adhesive used has multiple handling precautions and lists injuries that can occur (skin, eyes, breathing vapors, etc.). Wearing eye shields, and protective gloves is required.
 - ◆ Need to wear bright colored vests (will be standing on side of streets when working on these).
 - ◆ Concerns about members of the public, homeowners, kids, and pets potentially coming in contact with uncured adhesive during / after installation. Initial cure time is up to 24 hours.
 - Should inform homeowners / residents at the locations where storm drains are located (need a pamphlet or flyer) with details of installations. Internet research shows this has been included by other municipalities when installing storm drain markers.
 - Manufacturer (Almetek) has an installation method sheet. For concrete surface mounting using adhesive, clean surface with wire brush and blow away dust. Apply adhesive (method sheet looks like complete fill of marker underside), and press in place. Would be necessary to wipe away squeeze out of adhesive. Note: for many instances of a missing marker, a spiral pattern of adhesive with many gaps is observed on the curb.
 - The adhesive previously used is not the one recommended by the Almetek. The recommended adhesive is more expensive.
 2. Status of other activities on past grants for waterways - Evelyn Hicks
 3. Letter of support to Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper for Buffalo Creek Floodplain Reconnection Project that was requested from from the commission last June.
 4. Storm Drain article by Town of West Seneca Engineering department placed on the Environmental Corner.

- e. Community Needs and Interests, etc.
- 6) Governance
 - 1) Note that four Commission members terms are expiring at the end of December.
 - 2) Still have a vacancy for a youth member.
 - 3) Meeting schedule for 2025. Decide at the October 2024 meeting and reserve the meeting room early.
 - 4) Environmental Commission Annual Report for 2023 was sent to the Town Board on September 12, 2024. To Be officially filed at town board meeting on 9/23/2024.
- 7) New Business
 - 1) Tree City USA - Danielle Bagley
 - 2) NYS DEC Smoke Creek Habitat Opportunity Assessment Report - Evelyn Hicks
 - 3) Set-up a commission display at the Burchfield building. - Barb Lipiew
 - 4) Liaison for ECEMC (Erie County Environmental Management Council). Leane Schultz has been our liaison for the ECEMC meetings for some time now. Leane has requested that someone else take over as liaison. We thank her for her support on this. Note: These meetings are all on-line.
- 8) Other?
- 9) Adjourn

2024 Meeting Schedule

February 5, 6:30 PM - Complete

March 18, 6:30 PM - Complete - working session on strategic planning - small conference room

April 15, 6:30 PM - Complete

May 13, 6:30 PM - Complete - working session on strategic planning

June 10, 6:30 PM - Complete

September 30, 6:30 PM

October 28, 6:30 PM

December 9, 6:30 PM