

WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WSEC) MEETING AGENDA

January 9, 2025

6:30 PM in the Small Conference Room, West Seneca Community Center

MEMBERS – Robert Amadon - Chair, Evelyn Hicks, Barbara Lipiew, Thomas Mudd, Jr., Adam Reger, Ryan Taylor, Ben Szablewski, Town Board Liaison: Scott Robertson

Agenda

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Approval of October 28, 2024 meeting minutes, and December 9, 2024 meeting minutes
- 3) Issues of the Public
- 4) Correspondence
- 5) Ongoing Commission Projects
 - a. Bikes
 1. There is a need for a transportation plan for the town as was proposed in the Town's comprehensive plan from 2016. This plan would include bike lanes on roadways. Action: A suggestion is to recommend that the Town Board pursue the development and implementation of a transportation plan as described above. We will need a motion and a vote to proceed with the recommendation.
 - b. Trees
 1. NYSDEC Grant for Tree Inventory and Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP) In December 2024, the Town Supervisor has signed the grant contract. Action: Discuss and prepare for implementing the grant. There is a need to form the grant implementation team to include environmental commission members, representatives from various town departments, and the Town Board. Need input from the Town Board on who these team members will be.
 2. Recommendations for the revised tree list and update of town codes to reference it. Town Board deferred to the town attorney for review in March 2023. The tree list on the town's website was updated in December 2024. Town codes not revised yet. Action: Determine if town codes will be updated or not. Need an answer from the town board on this. If codes will not be updated, suggest closing this item. Town Board liaison to provide status update.
 3. Questions have arisen regarding the expertise the town has for maintaining newly planted trees in town parks for the long term. Problems were noted with newer trees in the BNAC grounds lacking proper maintenance, reducing their chances for survival. Action: Town Board Liaison to contact buildings and grounds and provide their feedback to the commission.
 - c. Education
 1. Set up a commission display at BNAC building - Action: Evelyn Hicks, Barb Lipiew
 - d. Waterways
 1. The commission has 60 storm drain medallions (markers) that can be installed on curb locations for storm drains. Action: Return these to the town highway department and close this item. Provide these medallions and two tube of adhesive to the Town Board liaison at the meeting on 1/9/2025.

2. Any updates on past grants for waterways? - Evelyn Hicks

e. Community Needs and Interests, etc.

6) Governance

- a) Suggestion to add a Co-Vice Chair for the commission, which is allowed per the commission's By-Laws.
- b) As of January 1, 2025 there will be a new vacancy for one commission member, and there is still a vacancy for a youth member to be filled.
- c) Nomination of Danielle Bagley as an associate commission member. Note: After nomination, the formal vote to approve associate members normally occurs at the next commission meeting.

7) New Business

- a) NYS DEC Smoke Creek Habitat Opportunity Assessment Report - Evelyn Hicks
- b) As an advisory commission, we need to be aware of changes at the federal government level beginning on January 20, 2025 for environmental agencies, regulations, programs, grants, etc. Action: Monitor
- c) About 1 year ago, the power company took down 90% of the trees (mature) on Covington because they might someday reach the power lines. The agreement with the Town was that the power company could take them down and the Town would plant new ones for each house, homeowner's choice. The new trees have not been planted. Action: NYSEG is to plant new trees, when will this occur?

8) Other?

- a) A suggestion for March 2025 meeting, and the November 2025 meeting is to include an agenda item to review and discuss the environmental commission planning document.

9) Adjourn

2025 Meeting Schedule (Start time 6:30 PM, Large Meeting Room, West Seneca Community Center)

January 9 (Small Conference Room in the Community Center)

February 6

March 6

May 1

June 5

September 4

October 2

November 6

December 4