

W. SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at 7:00 PM

Christian Metz Home – 12 School St., West Seneca

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:05 p.m.

II. ATTENDANCE

Evelyn Hicks (EH) Chair, Rick Rutkowski (RR) Vice-Chair, Mike Wass (MW), Camie Jarrell (CJ), Lauren Masset (LM), Beth Feeney (BF), Emily Baker (EB)

Excused: Matthew Roche (MR), Amy Kobler (AK), Karl Spencer (KS)

Town Board Members: Gene Hart (GH), Bill Hanley (BH)

Guests: Brian Lasker-Weiglein, (W. Seneca West High School), Joe Jagorj, Victoria Bauer, Matt Welmar, Malik Davis (Orchard Park High School)

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Meeting Minutes – Feb.2018 – amended, accepted & approved by members - April 2018 - accepted & approved by members - March 2018 – tabled

2. Financial Report - MW reports that budget amounts are unchanged:

- 2018 WSEC Budget – \$1029.85
- Town Environmental funds:
 - National Fish and Wildlife Federation - \$2,710.96
 - US Fish & Wildlife Service - \$29,000.00
 - National Grid Mitigation Fund - \$61,000.00

Motion to spend up to \$100.00 for materials/supplies needed for storm drain marking and rain barrel fabrication – accepted and approved by members

Motion to spend money necessary to renew NYSDEC permit to work in Oxbow wetlands - accepted and approved by members

3. Correspondence – letter received from W. Sen. resident re: dead ash trees on Erie County property – EH will advise him to notify Erie County of his concerns
4. 2015, 2016, 2017 Annual Reports – 2017 draft being revised
5. Office – EH reports that office needs to be organized

IV. WSEC PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Oxbow (2805 Clinton St.) – EH reports concerns of “lowered” water levels in the Oxbow – she will keep since the replacement of the discharge culvert - she will try to facilitate a meeting in early June with Mark Gaston (Erie Co. Soil & Water Conservation District) and WSEC members to discuss possible resolution of situation

2. Standing Subcommittee reports:

- Tree Issues Subcommittee – status quo
- Creek Awareness Subcommittee – “Creek Awareness and Safety” presentation to students scheduled for June 29 at Summer Day Camp
- By-Laws Subcommittee – EH provided draft to members for review, requests comments prior to June meeting
- Water Quality Issues Subcommittee –
 - Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Launch – 880 Harlem Rd. – status quo - RR will contact Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper staff to discuss possible improvements to site
 - Residential Rain Barrels – RR delivered 2 to W. Sen. residents
 - Municipal Rain Barrels – status quo
 - Storm Drain Marking – RR obtained “permission letter” from Ron Pfeil (W.S. Engineering), obtained W. Seneca street maps from AK, purchased supplies (\$65.20), marked 94 storm drains on 18 streets – maps distributed to members at meeting

V. 2018 MEMBER PROJECTS

1. Community Outreach – scheduled events:
 - June 24 – WSEC display at BNAC
 - June 26 - Celebrate Summer event – to focus on bees
 - August 7 – National Night Out

VI. OTHER PROJECTS

1. GH, BH mentioned 3 new development projects – Union Concrete expansion, Ebenezer Rail Car, residential development (South of Ridge Rd between I-90 & Orchard Park Rd)

VII. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC

1. Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off Day – RR sent news bulletin to members

Adjourned – 8:10 p.m.