

WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 28, 2018 at 7:00 PM
Christian Metz Home – 12 School St., West Seneca

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:06 p.m.

II. ATTENDANCE

Evelyn Hicks (EH) Chair, Rick Rutkowski (RR) Vice-Chair, Mike Wass (MW),
Camie Jarrell (CJ), Karl Spencer (KS)
Excused/Absent: Lauren Masset (LM), Beth Feeney (BF), Emily Baker (EB),
Matthew Roche (MR), Amy Kobler (AK)
Town Board Member: Bill Hanley (BH)

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Meeting Minutes – March 2018 – tabled – May 2018 – accepted & approved by members
2. Financial Report - MW reports that budget amounts are unchanged:
 - 2018 WSEC Budget – \$1029.85
 - Town Environmental funds:
 - National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF) - \$2,710.96
 - US Fish & Wildlife Service - \$29,000.00
 - National Grid Mitigation Fund - \$61,000.00

EH suggests that we consider purchase of an updated (laptop) computer, advises that funds are available in the NFWF grant – to be discussed at Sept. 2018 meeting

3. Correspondence – EH advised that she sent response to W. Sen. resident re: dead ash trees on Erie County property
4. 2015, 2016, 2017 Annual Reports – status quo
5. Office – EH would like our office to be situated in the 1st floor of the Metz Home, with the 2nd floor used for storage - BH believes that this will be acceptable to Town Board members.

IV. WSEC PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Oxbow (2805 Clinton St.) – EH renewed NYSDEC permit to work in wetlands - extended for 2 years (expires 6/22/20, cannot be renewed) – on 7/16, RR observed Giant Hogweed plant growing on site, notified NYSDEC – RR will check to see if plant has been removed
2. Standing Subcommittee reports:
 - Tree Issues Subcommittee – status quo
 - Creek Awareness Subcommittee – status quo
 - By-Laws Subcommittee – motion made to accept most recent revision of BYLAWS document – accepted and approved by members
 - Water Quality Issues Subcommittee –
 - Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Launch – 880 Harlem Rd. – RR spoke w/ Renata Kraft (Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper) re: Buffalo Blueway Initiative – this program has just begun, and they are in the planning stages for the 1st stage of improvements (19 eligible sites) - advised her that our concern is that the launch area becomes “silted in” – RR will follow up with R. Kraft
 - Residential Rain Barrels – RR delivered 1 to W. Sen. resident
 - Municipal Rain Barrels – status quo
 - Storm Drain Marking – program completed for 2018 – 205 storm drains marked on 46 Town streets - RR purchased additional supplies (\$14.94)

V. 2018 MEMBER PROJECTS

1. Community Outreach – scheduled events:

- June 24 – WSEC display at BNAC – rained out
- June 26 - Celebrate Summer event – to focus on bees
- August 7 – National Night Out – RR, MW staffed booth – 12 residents “signed up” for rain barrels

VI. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC - None

Adjourned – 7:51 p.m.