

WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 22, 2019, 2018 at 7:00 PM

Christian Metz Home – 12 School St., West Seneca

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:01 p.m.

II. ATTENDANCE

Evelyn Hicks (EH) Chair, Rick Rutkowski (RR) Vice-Chair, Mike Wass (MW), Karl Spencer (KS), Lauren Masset (LM), Emily Baker (EB), Amy Kobler (AK)

Excused/Absent: Camie Jarrell, (CJ), Aubrey Murphy (AM), Matthew Roche (MR)

Guests: Jim Lawson, Denise Cameron

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Members/Appointments - as per the 2019 Town Board Reorganization meeting, the following appointments have been made:

- 1 year appointments – EH, CJ, KS, AK, AM, MR (youth)
- 2 year appointments – EB, LM, RR, MW

2. Meeting Minutes – October 2018, Nov. 2018 – accepted and approved by members

3. Financial Report - MW reports that budget amounts are as follows:

- 2019 WSEC Budget – \$1500.00
- 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

Financial report accepted and approved by members

4. Correspondence – none

5. 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 Annual Reports – status quo – EH advised that she will prepare Annual Reports

6. Office – status quo – members will meet at office on 1/21/19 (12:30 p.m.) to begin office organization.

IV. WSEC PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Oxbow (2805 Clinton St.) – status quo

2. Standing Subcommittee reports:

- Tree Issues Subcommittee – status quo
- Creek Awareness Subcommittee – status quo – KS is concerned that the subcommittee was unable to facilitate the powerpoint presentation (**Creek Awareness and Safety in West Seneca**) to students at West Seneca West Middle School last year - after discussion, members believe that the target audience may be reached through outreach to other local organizations.
- Education Subcommittee – status quo
- Water Quality Issues Subcommittee – RR will prepare the 2018 Water Quality Issues Table of accomplishments, and will distribute to members and to town Board
 - Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Launch – 880 Harlem Rd. – status quo
 - Residential Rain Barrels – status quo
 - Municipal Rain Barrels – status quo
 - Storm Drain Marking – status quo

V. 2019 MEMBER PROJECTS

1. Water Quality Issues Subcommittee – members intend to affix storm drain medallions to Town streets at storm drain inlets, and agree to conduct a working meeting (May 28) in lieu of our scheduled monthly meeting.
2. Education Subcommittee – the following topics will be addressed:
 - Deer Management – EH will prepare a “position paper”
 - Residential recycling - AK will update guidance documents (as necessary)
 - Butterfly /Pollinator Garden – AK believes that this type of garden would beautify the Town Hall area, and would educate residents to their importance in our ecosystem – EH will discuss with Jim Manley
3. Tree Issues Subcommittee – a Guide Booklet (for town staff) pertaining to the Tree Ordinance will be prepared
4. 2019 Shoreline Sweep – May 11 (10 a.m. – noon) – in conjunction with the Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper (BNW) Shoreline Sweep event, members will perform creek clean up along Buffalo Creek (adjacent to the Burchfield Nature and Arts Center) and Cazenovia Creek (adjacent to Ridge Rd./Seneca St. intersection) – EH will be site captain at the BNAC, and CJ will be site captain at Cazenovia Creek. Participants are to register at the BNW website.
5. National Night Out - Aug. 6 – AK believes that a display that might be provided by a local beekeeper would be educational to attendees

VI. TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1. Carriage Lane Townhomes (2730 Transit Rd.) – (proposed) 38 townhomes – tabled at the 1/10/19 Planning Board meeting - MW attended the meeting, and he reports that, at a pre meeting caucus, members were concerned that more trees will be removed from the site than will be planted. Also, they may request assistance from the Env. Commission. KS suggests that we invite Planning Board members to a future Env. Commission meeting. After discussion, members agree that the Planning Board should be invited to a future Tree Issues Subcommittee meeting. KS will facilitate meeting.

VII. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC - None

Adjourned – 8:27 p.m.