

WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 7:00 PM

Christian Metz Home – 12 School St., West Seneca

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:03 p.m.

II. ATTENDANCE

Rick Rutkowski (RR) Vice-Chair, Mike Wass (MW), Lauren Masset (LM), Karl Spencer (KS)

Excused/Absent: Evelyn Hicks (EH), Camie Jarrell (CJ), Emily Baker (EB), Amy Kobler (AK) Aubrey Murphy (AM), Matthew Roche (MR)

Town Council: Bill Hanley (BH), Gene Hart (GH)

Guests: Tracy Skalski (TS), Regina Askin, Taylor Askin, Caylie Hahn, Jake Doherty, Reagan Ridney, Alex Westcott, John Fanelli, Louis Phillips, Sierra Manne, Jenna Crean, Sarah Radt, Emma Giovanetto, Tom Laudico

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Members/appointments officers/duties – EH contacted the Town Board re: potential appointments (Tracy Skalski, Jake Kobler) – to be addressed at June 3 Town Board meeting
2. Meeting Minutes – April 2019 – tabled (no quorum present for meeting)
3. Financial Report – MW reports that budget amounts are as follows:
 - 2019 WSEC Working Budget – \$1450.23
 - 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
4. Correspondence – None
5. 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 Annual Reports – status quo
6. Office - status quo
7. Meeting location – LM suggests that we investigate other venues for meetings, due to space concerns /no. of guests at the meeting

IV. WSEC PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Oxbow (2805 Clinton St.) – 5/11 - EH, RR organized, swept, and cleaned tools at storage shed
2. Standing Subcommittee reports:
 - Tree Issues Subcommittee – general discussion among Town Board, WSEC members re: tree issues at new development sites - KS plans to attend the June 13 Planning Board meeting to discuss identifying value for trees that will be removed from development sites with Planning Board members - Proposed development of Guide Booklet – status quo
 - Creek Awareness Subcommittee – status quo
 - Education Subcommittee:
 - Deer Management – development of proposed “position paper” – status quo
 - Residential Recycling – status quo
 - Butterfly/Pollinator Garden – status quo – no flower gardens are expected to be planted at the Veteran’s Walkway this year
 - Water Quality Issues Subcommittee:
 - Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Launch – 880 Harlem Rd. – RR sent suggested site improvement info (via e- mail) to Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, - they will forward to NYSDEC staff

- Residential Rain Barrels – 12 remain in storage- MW suggests that we “raffle off” a rain barrel at the Nite Out event
 - Municipal Rain Barrels – RR set up rain barrel at the BNAC to collect rain water for flower planting
 - Storm Drain Marking -- RR provided updated News Release to members for review, purchased 3 wire brushes, 7 tubes of adhesive from Home Depot for project on 5/11/19 (\$49.77) –Storm drain marking working meeting will be June 25 (meet at Metz Home at 7 p.m.) – KS mentioned the relationship between pesticide application, stormwater runoff, and degradation of the environment
3. TS suggested additional education opportunities for residents:
- Initiation of an “Education Corner” in the W. Seneca Bee, The Sun –
 - door hanger/flyer (for distribution to residents during storm drain marking) – draft flyer circulated to members
- after discussion, members decide that ideas have merit, TS will pursue activities

V. OTHER EVENTS

1. 2019 Shoreline Sweep – May 11 (10 a.m. – noon) – CJ, RR, and 19 volunteers cleaned creek banks at Cazenovia Creek and removed 17 bags of trash and 2 bags of recyclables – EH, LM, EB, AK and 45 volunteers cleaned creek banks at Buffalo Creek (at BNAC) and removed 19 bags of trash and a large amount of vegetative debris
2. National Night Out - Aug. 6 – (Dunn Tire parking lot) – MW commits to a full 4 hour shift (5-9 p.m.), RR will work 8 -9 p.m. – other members will consider their availability – member’s opinion was that a beekeeper display would be problematic for those that are allergic – (liability should be avoided)
3. EH and GH attended the May 15 Erie County Water Quality Committee meeting – learned of an ongoing NYSDEC program to evaluate the Buffalo Creek corridor in West Seneca, and also work pertaining to Ebenezer Brook.

VI. TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1. Carriage Lane Townhomes (2730 Transit Rd.) – (proposed) 38 townhomes – as per MW, this item was tabled at the May 9 Planning Board meeting

VII. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC - None

Adjourned – 7:57 p.m.