

WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019 at 7:00 PM

West Seneca Community Center – 1300 Union Rd., West Seneca

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:07 p.m.

II. ATTENDANCE

Evelyn Hicks (EH) Chair, Rick Rutkowski (RR) Vice-Chair, Mike Wass (MW),
Lauren Masset (LM), Amy Kobler (AK), Tracy Skalski (TS)

Excused/Absent: Amber McCarthy (AM) Karl Spencer (KS), Camie Jarrell (CJ),
Emily Baker (EB), Jake Kobler (JK)

Town Council: Bill Hanley (BH)

Guests: Jerry Miller, Hazel Weaver, Alex Bardote, Alexis Klenke, Thomas Klenke

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Meeting Minutes – July 2019 – accepted and approved by members
2. 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
3. Correspondence – from J. Miller re: 945 Center Rd. (see below)
4. 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 Annual Reports – EH sent 2016, 2017 reports to members for review, and will continue to “work on” 2015, 2018 reports –RR suggests that reports be compiled in a “table” format - discussion ensues among members, with the majority preferring the narrative form – subsequently, the 2016 and 2017 Annual reports are accepted and approved by members, and EH will send same to the Town Board
5. Office - status quo
6. Meeting location – LM has arranged for meetings to be conducted at the W. Sen. Community Room from Sept. 2019 – Dec. 2020

IV. WSEC PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. Oxbow (2805 Clinton St.) – RR will harvest milkweed seeds this autumn for planting at the site in the future
2. Standing Subcommittee reports:
 - Tree Issues Subcommittee – status quo
 - Creek Awareness Subcommittee – RR asks if students who must obtain Government Participation credits can attend a “Creek Awareness” presentation that is conducted during/after a WSEC meeting – EH replies that those students are not the target audience (6th-7th graders) for that presentation – member discussion ensues re: logistics for a presentation at the W. Sen. Community Room, possibly during April 2020 – LM will check re room availability
 - Education Subcommittee:
 - Deer Management – KS e-mailed deer management reference information to members – using that information, EM will formulate a “position paper” for the Town, and RR will formulate educational materials for the Town’s residents
 - Residential Recycling – BH reports that he has received no complaints since the Town changed from weekly pickup to bi-weekly pick up, mentioning the Town’s decreased costs.

- Environmental Corner in Local Media - TS mentioned that AK has provided her with Administrative control for the WSEC Facebook page, and asks about protocol for posting information – BH said that she should adhere to the Town’s social media Code of Conduct, and EH said that any generic information (i.e. not controversial or unresolved) can be posted.
- Water Quality Issues Subcommittee:
 - Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Launch – 880 Harlem Rd. – RR reports that he has discussed maintenance at the site, as well as possible upgrades (installation of additional steps landward for launching, addition of fill/grading at the base of the access path), with NYSDEC representatives – NYSDEC reports that funds have been included in their 2020 budget for this purpose
 - Residential Rain Barrels – RR reports that 10 remain in storage
 - Municipal Rain Barrels – status quo
 - Storm Drain Marking -- RR reports that, in August, he affixed 42 medallions on 10 streets by RR, TS affixed 22 medallions on 3 streets – RR suggested purchase of 100 additional storm drain medallions for next year’s project.

V. OTHER EVENTS

1. National Night Out - Aug. 6 – (Dunn Tire parking lot) – members manning the booth were RR, MW, AK, JK, EH. TS - 2 rain barrels were “raffled off” to residents – all agreed that our booth received a lot of interest from attendees.

VI. TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1. 3100 Clinton St. – proposed Rosina Foods expansion – RR reviewed the site plans, development proposal, and SEQRA and provided comments re: same – project tabled at 9/12 Planning Board meeting

VII. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC –

1. 945 Center Rd. - J. Miller mentioned that tree removal at the site had begun on Aug. 3 (apparently, in violation of the Town’s Tree Ordinance), that Supervisor Meegan and Councilman Hanley visited the site on Aug. 5, and that a “stop work” order was issued by the Town Aug. 27 – BH said that the sale of that property to the developer of the 965 Center Rd. project (Young Development) is pending, and therefore the current owner of the property is liable for removal of the trees – J Miller questioned why the developer was allowed to operate on the site for the 22 days between Aug. 9 and Aug 27.

Adjourned – 8:21 p.m.