

WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Via Webex Call – coordinated by WS Town Clerk Amy Kobler

CALL TO ORDER 7:10PM

- I. ATTENDANCE: Present: EH, MW, EM, LM, TS
 1. Excused: Rick Rutkowski
 2. Absent: Cynn timer Gaasch, Cami Jarrell

- II. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES
 1. Meeting Minutes – November 2019, October 2020 **APPROVED** MW/EM
 2. Financial Report – Read by Mike Wass
 1. 2020 WSEC Working Budget – \$1500.00
Town Environmental funds:
 - National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF) - \$2,710.76
 - US Fish & Wildlife Service - \$29,000.00
 - National Grid Mitigation Fund - \$61,000.00
 3. Correspondence –
 4. 2015, 2018, 2019, 2020 Annual Reports: need completion
 5. Membership – Town Board Appointments (1/4/21) - MW, EB, LM, RR to 2-year terms, expiring on 12/31/2023. Youth member status is undetermined
 6. BUSINESS - Resolution of lawsuit settlement regarding 945 Center Road Trees to be planted.
 7. Dates for 2021 meetings are as follows: 1/26; 2/23; 3/23; 4/27; 5/25 (Storm drain medallions); 6/22; 7/27; 8/24; 9/28; 10/26; 11/23-?; 12/28-?
Other events: Earth Day/Shoreline Sweep; National Night Out event
 8. Motion by Mike Wass, second by Tracy Skalski: **PASSED**

The 35 trees allocated to the Town of West Seneca through the Young Development settlement regarding 945 Center Road (Dated September 2, 2020) shall be planted at 1. The Burchfield Center 2. The Oxbow Wetland and 3. Switzer/Knox Park. The location and type of trees shall be chosen by the West Seneca Environmental Commission and the type and planting location of said trees shall be identified with survey lathe marked accordingly. These trees will be planted during the generally acceptable planting season for Western New York.

III. **WSEC PROJECTS – MEMBER INITIATIVES FOR 2021**

1. RR:
 - Creation of W. Seneca Nature and Wildlife Sanctuary
 - Improvements (by NYSDEC) to Canoe/Kayak launch
 - Completion of storm drain marking project
 - Continuation of rain barrel program for residents & Town
 - Improve the Creek Awareness presentation

2. EH:
 - Update Town's Open Space map and install "Posted" signs on same, prohibiting both Trespassing and motorized vehicles from same.
 - Continue to work with National Grid on the installation of the Viewing Platform at the Meyer Road Wetland (NYS DEC site BU-13)
 - Continue to work on the new NFWF Grant for stream bank stabilization and flood control on the Buffalo Creek near the Lexington Green area (near Oxbow Wetland, BU-17).
 - Chair monthly Env. Comm. Meetings and provide assistance to other committees as needed.

3. MW:
 - Provide technical assistance as needed to various projects and committees
 - Tree Ordinance recommendations
 - Follow-up on status of implementation of lawsuit settlement concerning 945 Center Road site. Coordinate with WS Town Atty.
4. CJ - Provide technical assistance as needed to various projects and sub-committees
5. LM - Provide assistance and support in Community Engagement and healthy living options from an environmental standpoint
- 6. EB –
 - Provide assistance and support in Educational endeavors of the committee
 - Use social media to promote involvement by children
 - Create an awareness campaign regarding the impact of the individual on the environment.
7. TS: * also see addendum
 - Promotion of WS Env Comm initiatives and events via Town Website, Facebook and print. Include the use of Instagram and Twitter platforms.
 - Continue to work as a liaison to the alternative transportation initiatives in Town, including bike lanes.
8. CG:
 - Provide technical assistance as needed re: the new NFWF Grant for stream bank stabilization and flood control on the Buffalo Creek near the Lexington Green area.
 - Provide ideas and assistance in securing and implementing various grant opportunities.

IV. TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT INITIATIVES:

1. Request electronic distribution of new projects to WSEC for review/comments from WS Code Enforcement.

V. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC – none

Adjourned – 8:10pm MW/TS

- I can help RR with improvements to the creek awareness PowerPoint. I looked at it a long time ago and had thoughts on how it could be improved.
- We can also discuss a potential new date for the public presentation of the Creek Awareness PP. I don't know if things will be open enough for this spring.?
- In November 2020 I met with the Town's Grant writer, Connie Miner, Councilman Bauer, Chris Holmes and an Engineer from CPL, Steve Tanner about a grant opportunity through the Ralph Wilson Legacy Fund for preliminary engineering work for an on-route bicycle trail that will extend along Seneca Street, from Transit Road to Harlem Road. Unfortunately, the grant had a short turnaround time and it was decided by the Town to not pursue the funding because they felt that they were not prepared to submit a complete application since Seneca Street is a County-owned road.
- I feel that this is a great example to showcase that the town needs a local bike master plan, or perhaps some mapping and planning of our streets in place, so when these types of funding opportunities arise, we are ready to jump on them.
- I have not posted much on the website or FB account. Hopefully 2021 will give us a little more ability to resume activities.
- Does anyone have content they want me to post? Is there a new Town contact person?
- Recycle Coach app - New county initiative for residents to get notifications on their phone for waste and recycling. I don't have too much info on it yet, but I know the County will be offering this to residents soon. I'll give the group more information as I get it.