

Members: Evelyn Hicks (EH), Chair, Rick Rutkowski (RR), Vice-Chair, Dave Monopolus (DM), Jim Caruso (JC), Lauren Masset (LM), Mike Wass (MW), Camie Jarrell (CJ), Karl Spencer, Richard Corbetta, Matthew Roche (Youth Member)
Associate Members: Emily Baker (EB), Matt Poole (MP), Jack Oshei (JO), Amy Kobler (AK)
West Seneca Town Board members: Bill Hanley (BH), Gene Hart (GH)

2017 Meetings were held on Tuesday, Jan. 24; Feb.28; March 28; April 26; May 23; June 27; July 25; Aug. 1 (National Night Out); Aug. 22; Sept. 26; Oct. 24; Nov. & Dec. meetings adjourned due to holidays.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

Budget

2017 Town stipend – \$1500.00

National Fish and Wildlife Federation - \$2,710.96

US Fish & Wildlife Service - \$29,000.00

Town received \$61,000 from National Grid –deposited into the Town’s General Funds (to be used exclusively for WSEC projects per agreement)

Office – structural problems at the Burchfield Nature and Arts Center – building is closed – Feb. WSEC meeting to be conducted at Union Fire Co.

Feb 2017 - in view of the problems at the BNAC, the WSEC offices will be moved to the be moved to the Metz house (16 School St.)

WSEC PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION

Oxbow Wetland (2805 & 2735 Clinton St.) JC and RR installed the donation of 4 nesting boxes from Ducks Unlimited

Standing Subcommittees:

Tree Issues Subcommittee:

KS report re: **Marrano/Croglio subdivision**. Project approved, contingent that they provide a Landscape and Tree Plan to WSEC. Reviewed and recommended in April 2017.

Creek Awareness Subcommittee:

EH Spoke to the School Principal (David Keane) at West Seneca West Middle School who advised that there is no room in the schedule this spring to conduct the annual Creek Awareness and Safety Presentation. EH explained that it is vital to get this information to the sixth grade students at West

Middle. Suggested that perhaps the teachers can work this into their schedule and do the Power Point presentation during class time. Waiting to hear back from Principal. We were ultimately unable to make our presentation in 2017.

Water Quality Issues Subcommittee (Also see attached Annual Sub-committee Report):

- Canoe/Kayak launch site (880 Harlem Rd.) – 12/6/16 - draft press release sent to NYSDOT; RR e-mail (4/5) to NYSDOT re: erosion at site – DOT advised that contractor will be directed to re-seed, re-mulch area. Canoe/Kayak launch to be improved with construction of new Harlem Road Bridge.
- Storm drain marking program – no report
- Rain Barrel distribution program
- Municipal Rain Barrels

2017 PROJECTS:

Urban and Community Forestry Grants Program – RR provided verbal summary of program – GH advised that T./ W Seneca expects to apply (via Town grant writer Connie Miner) for the Tree Planting **National Night Out (Aug.1)** – Members to attend/participate. WSEC "stuffed animals" to be displayed - RR will bring a rain barrel to "raffle off".

Member Initiatives:

- **By-Laws Update** –Subcommittee was formed and JC lead the Administrative Subcommittee. Four meetings were held (2/7; 3/7; 6/1) and revisions to the by-laws were presented to the Commission for review/comment.
- **"Creek Corridor"** along Buffalo Creek (between Harlem Rd. & Union Rd), and has discussed same with the WNY Land Conservancy staff
- **Youth Engaged in Services** - EB proposes to work with to collect and recycle beverage containers after sporting events (MP offers to assist with this initiative)
- JO proposes an education initiative (presentations to the community)pertaining to environmental issues
- DM will initiate an attempt to find a taxidermist to repair our stuffed animals
- RR will fulfill a request from a member of the Girl Scouts of America for a presentation pertaining to WSEC activities
- EH, DM, CJ attended the **International Joint Commission on the Great Lakes** Public Meeting on March 26, 2017
- **Earth Day** - CJ served as the volunteer as Site Captain for Cazenovia Creek on Earth Day Clean up. EH served as Site Captain for the Burchfield Nature and Art Center site. CJ and EH attended Site-captain training at Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper
- **Prescription Drug Drop Off** –AK advised said that Police Chief Denz opted not to undertake the program at this time
- **Public Outreach & Education re: Household Recycling** –AK has posted the updated Modern Disposal Recycling information at Town Hall

- **Railroad property** - rails to trails. Town declined to assume this property/project
- AK suggested that the WSEC initiate a **FACEBOOK page** in order to educate the public – members discussed and agreed, limiting contents of the page to information that has been posted on the Town’s website.

2017 Town Projects/Updates reviewed and commented on by WSEC:

- **National Grid** will build a “viewing platform” for the public at the New York State Freshwater Protected Wetlands (BU-13)(adjacent to Meyer Rd) after the Gardenville Electric Station is upgraded – (probably in 2019)2. The Town has received a proposal from a developer to build a “Solar-grid” at the Town Campus (1250 Union Rd.)
- GH has received a request from the Town Police help address the **deer control** issue, and suggests that the WSEC undertake a study to assist – RR suggests that informing the Town residents of types of deer resistant plants/flowers that can be planted in gardens would be a better method of addressing this problem
- EH asks if members have any interest in attending the **Erie County Water Quality Committee** meetings (conducted monthly)
- 4 Application for **Oak Grove Construction** (Mineral Springs Road) for a Concrete-crushing permit (denied by Town Board)
- We were notified of a Vacancy on Erie County Environmental Management Commission – meeting held the second Tuesday of each month at the Erie County Fire Training facility on Broadway in Cheektowaga.
- EH spoke with Town Disaster Coordinator re: positioning “mile markers” along Buffalo Creek to aid in locating any emergency rescue situations.
- **162 Slade Ave.** – site plan tabled pending Arborist Report (Planning Board)

WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION - WATER QUALITY ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE

2017 TABLE OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Participants	Date(s)	Location/Accomplishments
Jim Caruso, Rick Rutkowski, Mike Wass, Dave Monopolus	March 7	Conducted meeting to identify 2017 projects and activities for subcommittee members
Rick Rutkowski	May 10	Provided (2017) activities to Town for inclusion with 2017 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Annual Report to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)
Rick Rutkowski	Spring/Fall	Installed 2 rain barrels, signage at BNAC - (all emptied, removed in fall/stored for winter)
Rick Rutkowski	July 21	Developed/sent press release re: storm drain marking project to W. Seneca Bee, The Sun
Rick Rutkowski	Summer	Affixed 100 storm drain medallions onto 17 Town streets (curbs) at storm drain inlets
Dave Monopolus, Rick Rutkowski	Summer/Fall	Obtained 15 food grade 55 gal. sized drums (that would otherwise have been disposed as trash), fabricated drums into rain barrels for reuse by Town residents - distributed <u>Rain Barrels - Use, Installation, Maintenance, and Winterization</u> instructions with 3 rain barrels to 3 residents