

WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WSEC) MEETING AGENDA

December 9, 2024

6:30 PM in the Large Meeting Room, West Seneca Community Center

MEMBERS – Robert Amadon - Chair, Danielle Bagley, Evelyn Hicks, Barbara Lipiew, Thomas Mudd, Jr., Adam Reger, Ryan Taylor, Ben Szablewski, Town Board Liaison: Scott Robertson

Agenda

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Approval of October 28, 2024 meeting minutes
- 3) Issues of the Public
- 4) Correspondence
- 5) Ongoing Commission Projects
 - a. Bikes
 1. There is a need for a transportation plan for the town as was proposed in the Town's comprehensive plan from 2016. This would include planning for bike lanes on roadways. Action:
 - b. Trees
 1. NYSDEC Grant for Tree Inventory and Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP) Action: Town still has to provide some forms to NYSDEC, and the contract with NYSDEC is not executed yet. Action:
 2. Recommendations for the revised tree list and update of town codes to reference it. Town Board deferred to the town attorney for review in March 2023. Action:
 3. Questions have arisen regarding the expertise the town has for maintaining newly planted trees in town parks for the long term. Problems were noted with newer trees in the BNAC grounds lacking proper maintenance, reducing their chances for survival. Action:
 - c. Education
 1. Set up a commission display at BNAC building - Action: Evelyn Hicks, Barb Lipiew
 - d. Waterways
 1. The commission has 60 storm drain medallions (markers) that can be installed on curb locations for storm drains. The past efforts to install these are commendable. However, these medallions become detached and damaged after a few years and require replacement, which adds on-going costs. Requested feedback from the town attorney about any liability concerns with potential injury to those installing and the public, due to the adhesive material properties and installation method. Action:
 2. Any updates on past grants for waterways? - Evelyn Hicks
 - e. Community Needs and Interests, etc.
 1. Congratulations to Ryan Taylor for being appointed as the Municipal Representative for the Town on the Erie County Environmental Management Council!

6) Governance

- a) Suggestion to add a Co-Vice Chair for the commission, which is allowed per the commission's By-Laws.
- b) As of January 1, 2025 there will be a new vacancy for one commission member, and there is still a vacancy for a youth member to be filled.
- c) Nomination of Danielle Bagley as an associate commission member. Note: After nomination, the formal vote to approve associate members normally occurs at the next commission meeting.

7) New Business

- a) NYS DEC Smoke Creek Habitat Opportunity Assessment Report - Evelyn Hicks
- b) As an advisory commission, we need to be aware of changes at the federal government level beginning on January 20, 2025. There are significant changes being proposed for the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, and the Department of the Interior, and many others. The elimination of Climate Change as a concern for federal government action, legislation, regulations, and programs is also planned. Locally for our town, the short-term and long-term impacts of these changes are currently unknown. Action:
- c) About 1 year ago, the power company took down 90% of the trees (mature) on Covington because they might someday reach the power lines. The agreement with the Town was that the power company could take them down and the Town would plant new ones for each house, homeowner's choice. The new trees have not been planted. Action:

8) Other?

- a) A suggestion for January 2025 meeting is to include a review of the planning spreadsheet for priority changes, additions, or deletions.

9) Adjourn

2024 Meeting Schedule

December 9, 6:30 PM

2025 Meeting Schedule (Start time 6:30 PM, Large Meeting Room, West Seneca Community Center)

January 2 (Note that if the Town Board meeting is scheduled for this same date, we will move the meeting to Monday, January 6)

February 6

March 6

May 1

June 5

Sept 4

October 2

November 6

December 4