

WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION - MEETING MINUTES
WEST SENECA COMMUNITY CENTER - 1300 UNION ROAD, WEST SENECA, NY 14224

DATE

June 18, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Town of West Seneca Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairperson Amadon at 6:37 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present:

1. Robert Amadon, Chairperson
2. Ben Szablewski, Vice Chairperson
3. Charles Tuberdyke
4. Gina Geller
5. Kathleen Duffy
- Councilmember Scott Robertson, Town Board Liaison
- Councilmember Mary Sherman, Town Board Liaison
- Evelyn Hicks, Associate Member

Absent:

1. Ryan Taylor (excused)
2. Erin Lakowski (excused)
3. Robert Wyeth
4. Brittany Hernon
- Danielle Bagley, Associate Member

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Szablewski, seconded by Ms. Duffy, to approve the Environmental Commission meeting minutes from May 21, 2026.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Motion: Carried

ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC

None received.

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CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

ONGOING COMMISSION PROJECTS

- **Tree Inventory Grant**

Chairperson Amadon reported that he is still awaiting responses to inquiries regarding the status of the grant. The only communication this month confirmed that an employee of the Highway Department will be responsible for updating the TreeKeeper data. The Commission is still waiting for clarification from the local DEC forester and the grants forester in Albany regarding the tree inventory audit. Chairperson Amadon noted that the Community Forestry Management Plan must be completed and approved by the DEC before it is presented to the Town Board at a public meeting, likely in October or November 2026.

- **Park Cleanup Subcommittee & Pollinator Protectors**

Chairperson Amadon revisited the topic of a park cleanup subcommittee and pollinator protection activities, such as constructing bee hotels. Ms. Geller, who had previously volunteered, stated she would contact Mr. Wyeth and Ms. Lakowski to coordinate subcommittee efforts. Mr. Szablewski offered to join the subcommittee.

GOVERNANCE

Motion by Chairperson Amadon, seconded by Ms. Duffy to approve Barb Lipiew as Associate Member.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Motion: Carried

- **Financial Secretary Position**

Chairperson Amadon announced that the volunteer position of Financial Secretary remains open. The position includes overseeing grant funds and a stipend of approximately \$1,000 allocated for purchasing commission materials (which requires adherence to the Town of West Seneca procurement policy). It was noted that Ms. Hicks, as a former chairperson, would have more detailed knowledge of the financial procedures.

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NEW BUSINESS

- **Commission Planning Spreadsheet & Data Center Recommendations**

Chairperson Amadon introduced a review of the Commission's planning spreadsheet, an action register created to track priorities and project statuses.

Chairperson Amadon proposed adding a new item to document and research the potential environmental impacts of data centers to prepare recommendations for the Town Board. Ms. Duffy volunteered to assist with this research.

The Commission's discussion focused on advising the Town Board to consider a one-year moratorium on new data center construction to allow for a thorough review of impacts, identifying several areas of environmental concern: air emissions from backup generators, sound levels, excessive water consumption, water pollution, and impacts on wildlife.

Motion by Mr. Szablewski, seconded by Ms. Duffy, to direct Chairperson Amadon to draft a formal letter to the Town Board recommending a review of the environmental and economic impacts of data centers and consideration of actions such as a one-year moratorium and/or zoning changes.

Ayes: All Noes: None Abstain: None Motion: Carried

- **Rooftop Solar Installations on Town Buildings:**

Chairperson Amadon proposed adding the consideration of rooftop solar installations on Town-owned buildings to the Commission's planning spreadsheet. The Commission agreed to add this topic to the Commission's planning spreadsheet.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Szablewski, seconded by Ms. Duffy, to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 PM.

Ayes: All Noes: None Abstain: None Motion: Carried

Respectfully submitted by Matthew Fincel, Secretary to the Environmental Commission

