

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

DATE

September 17, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Town of West Seneca Environmental Commission was called to order by Vice Chairperson Szablewski at 6:30 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present:

1. Ben Szablewski, Vice Chairperson
2. Kathleen Duffy
3. Erin Lakomski
4. Robert Wyeth
- Barb Lipiew, Associate Member

Absent:

1. Robert Amadon, Chairperson (excused)
2. Gina Geller (excused)
3. Ryan Taylor
- Councilmember Scott Robertson, Town Board Liaison
- Councilmember Mary Sherman, Town Board Liaison
- Evelyn Hicks, Associate Member
- Danielle Bagley, Associate Member

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Wyeth, seconded by Ms. Duffy, to approve the Environmental Commission meeting minutes from June 18, 2026.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Motion: Carried

ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC

None received.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

None received.

ONGOING COMMISSION PROJECTS

- Update on Tree Inventory Grant

Vice Chairperson Szablewski reported the following remarks from Chairperson Amadon as stated on the agenda:

“The decision was made with the Town and DRG to not proceed with the scope change to a CFMP and to continue with the original plan for only the inventory of trees along the ROW on Town streets, the associated data collection and analysis, and a tree inventory summary presentation.’

‘For public outreach and education as detailed in the grant progress report tasks and performance measures, the following will need to occur: The commission meeting on October 15, 2026, will be dedicated to a presentation and discussion of Tree Inventory Summary. Need assistance to advertise the meeting (a flyer to post on social media, and at selected locations in the town), inviting the local newspaper, Town Board members, and the NYS DEC Regional Forester. The commission meeting on November 19th will need to include a presentation and discussion on local soils and tree care. Need assistance identifying resources (presentations, etc.) to support this.”

Vice Chairperson Szablewski reported he made a flyer for the October meeting and will remind Chairperson Amadon to reach out to special groups to attend the presentation.

Ms. Lipiew recommended a contact she has at the DEC out of East Aurora for the November meeting. Ms. Lakomski said she will investigate appropriate contacts. Mr. Wyeth recommended a regional soil scientist contact he has for the November meeting.

- Park Cleanup Subcommittee

Vice Chairperson Szablewski reported wanting to draw in more members of the community to oncoming Commission events, such as anticipated park cleanups. He suggested the Commission table at popular Town events with an educational activity to engage children and adults as well as spread the word about the Commission’s presence, purpose, and events.

Mr. Wyeth will invite members of the West Seneca Lion’s Club, Rotary Club, and Women’s Club to the Commission’s oncoming park cleanups.

Ms. Lakomski suggested oncoming Commission events be family friendly to appeal to parents looking for activities to do with their children.

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

The Commission was in favor of holding their next big event in the Spring. Vice Chairperson Szablewski will wait to design flyers & activities for such events until planning with Chairperson Amadon.

- National Night Out Update

Vice Chairperson Szablewski thanked Ms. Duffy and Ms. Hicks for representing the Commission at the National Night Out event. Ms. Duffy suggested phasing out the Commission's taxidermy attractions for tabling. Vice Chairperson Szablewski suggested an interactive fossil table activity to educate children and parents alike.

- Follow-Up on Letter of Recommendation Against AI Data Centers to Town Board

Ms. Lakomski followed up about the letter Chairperson Amadon reported he would send to the Town Board. Vice Chairpersons Szablewski reported that Chairperson Amadon did send the letter to the Town Board and there is no additional update. Ms. Lipiew recommended sending additional anti-AI data center letters to the Planning and Zoning Board.

GOVERNANCE

- Financial Secretary Position

Vice Chairperson Szablewski reported the Commission is still in need of a financial secretary.

- Two Vacancies

Vice Chairperson Szablewski reported that there are two Commission vacancies which are advertised on the town website.

NEW BUSINESS

- Burchfield Nature & Arts Center Penny Updates

Ms. Lipiew reported on an art project at the Burchfield Nature & Arts Center prompting people "Why do you love trees?" She also reached out to Chairperson Amadon for permission to leave a copy of the agenda packet at the Burchfield for public perusal.

- Inquiry about Budget for Planting Trees

Ms. Lakomski inquired as to whether there was a line in the Town's budget for planting new trees. Ms. Lipiew suggested that the Commission consider investigating if it can use its budget for this endeavor.

- Purchasing Signage

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

Ms. Lipiew requested approval from the Commission to purchase a weatherproof "Trees Are Treasures" poster to hang up at the Burchfield Nature & Arts Center using the Commission's budget line.

Motion by Mr. Wyeth, seconded by Ms. Lakomski, to proceed with the purchase of the posted Ms. Lipiew requested.

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

- Public Engagement

Mr. Wyeth inquired about how the Commission engages the public. Vice Chairperson Szablewski replied that the Commission has a Town webpage, Facebook presence on its page and the Town's page, as well as National Night Out and Earth Day events, predominately. He also stated that in order to create an Instagram for the Commission they would need Town Board approval.

- "Styrofoam" Drop-Off Location

Ms. Lipiew reported that there is a "Styrofoam" drop-off location at Armstrong Brands Inc. 1703 Union Rd, West Seneca, NY 14224 available for public use. Ms. Lakomski suggested that recycling resources be posted on the Town's website and/or the Commission's website. Vice Chairperson Szablewski suggested making a professional infographic document for ease of reference.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Duffy, seconded by Mr. Wyeth, to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted by Matthew Fincel, Secretary to the Environmental Commission

