

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

DATE

April 16, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Town of West Seneca Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairperson Amadon at 6:32 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present:

1. Robert Amadon, Chairperson
2. Barbara Lipiew
3. Ben Szablewski
4. Brittany Hernon
5. Charles Tuberdyke
6. Gina Geller
7. Kathleen Duffy

Absent:

1. Ryan Taylor
- Evelyn Hicks, Associate Member (excused)
- Councilmember Mary Sherman, Town Board Liaison (excused)
- Councilmember Scott Robertson, Town Board Liaison (excused)
- Danielle Bagley, Associate Member
- Leane Schultz, Associate Member

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Szablewski, seconded by Ms. Lipiew, to approve the Environmental Commission meeting minutes from March 19, 2026.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Motion: Carried

ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC

None received.

CORRESPONDENCE

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- Boy Scouts outreach regarding bee boxes

Mr. Szablewski reported receiving a Facebook message from local Boy Scouts expressing interest in assisting with installation of bee boxes in Town parks and responded saying he would bring the inquiry to the Commission's attention. Chairperson Amadon stated this matter should be coordinated with Highway Superintendent Brian Adams. Ms. Duffy stated she would reach out to Highway Superintendent Brian Adams to explore feasibility and points of contact, and would report back after clarification of the request.

ONGOING COMMISSION PROJECTS

- **Update on Tree Inventory Grant**

Chairperson Amadon reported submission of the first-quarter progress report to the Department of Environmental Conservation contact and its distribution to the Commission. Chairperson Amadon reported that the grants forester has not yet responded to Highway Superintendent Brian Adams regarding questions to adjust the scope to include a community forest management plan (beyond the completed right-of-way street inventory). Chairperson Amadon reported there is remaining budget sufficient to proceed with the community forest management plan work in parks and stated the Town has reviewed TreeKeeper software data to identify hazardous trees for priority trimming and mitigation. Chairperson Amadon stated the response delay does not prevent community outreach and education activities.

- **Reminder for BNAC Earth Day clean-up event at Birchfield Park on April 25th, 10:00 AM to Noon**

Chairperson Amadon stated he will attend and set up a table to discuss Commission activities, the grant, tree education, etc. Ms. Lipiew stated she will attend as well. Ms. Geller stated she would print full-size QR codes and laminate them for the Commission's use. Mr. Szablewski stated he would provide Ms. Geller active QR codes linking to the Environmental Corner webpage and Facebook.

- **Coordinate with Town Highway Department for a park clean-up event on May 16th**

Chairperson Amadon reported he sent notes to Highway Superintendent Brian Adams but has not received a response due to travel; he stated he will follow up shortly and will include inquiry regarding permission to hang bee boxes in specific parks as discussed above.

GOVERNANCE

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- Vacancy exists for 1 member on the Commission

Chairperson Amadon reported one vacancy on the Commission. Chairperson Amadon stated he contacted prior interested parties and requested submission of a resume and cover letter to Deputy Town Supervisor Amelia Greenan.

- Nomination for Vice-chair for the Commission

Chairperson Amadon inquired about Commission members' interest in assuming the Vice Chairperson position. Mr. Szablewski stated willingness to run meetings in Chairperson Amadon's absence.

Motion by Chairperson Amadon, seconded by Ms. Brittany Hernon, to nominate Ben Szablewski as Vice Chairperson.

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

- Nomination for Financial Secretary of the Commission

Chairperson Amadon reported the Town Code requires a Financial Secretary and stated that the Commission will revisit this topic at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Per Town Codes for the commission, a report summarizing the commission's accomplishments in 2025 is to be sent to the Town Board**

Chairperson Amadon stated that the Commission's annual accomplishments report, required by Town Code by April 1 of each year, is in development summarizing 2025 activities. Chairperson Amadon stated he will circulate a draft report to the Commission for review before final submission.

- Public information on energy efficiency programs

Ms. Geller reported the expectation of strong seasonal heat and suggested posting NYSERDA program links for energy audits, insulation, and home efficiency upgrades to the Commission's Facebook page and website.

- Cornell Cooperative Extension events and local plant sales

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Ms. Geller reported Cornell Cooperative Extension will hold events on May 22 and May 23 with master gardeners onsite and free soil pH testing (one cup of dry soil), and suggested posting these resources. Ms. Lipiew stated the Amana Garden Club plant sale will be held at the Burchfield, offering local options though not strictly native species.

- Solar panel replacement on Town facilities

Ms. Lipiew suggested pursuing replacements and expansions of solar panels on suitable Town roofs through State programs. Chairperson Amadon stated he will contact Deputy Town Supervisor Amelia Greenan regarding this and will message the tree inventory grant writer for referral guidance.

- Planning spreadsheet: AI data centers

Chairperson Amadon reported he added background information on potential environmental impacts of AI data centers planned in the region (outside West Seneca) to the Commission's planning spreadsheet to prepare for possible future Town Planning Board or Town Board considerations. Chairperson Amadon stated he may circulate a summary by email to inform members.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Szablewski, seconded by Ms. Lipiew, to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 PM.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Motion: Carried

Respectfully submitted by Matthew Fincel, Secretary to the Environmental Commission

