

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

DATE

May 21, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Town of West Seneca Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairperson Amadon at 6:35 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present:

1. Robert Amadon, Chairperson
2. Charles Tuberdyke
3. Erin Lakomski
4. Gina Geller
5. Robert Wyeth
6. Ryan Taylor
- Councilmember Mary Sherman, Town Board Liaison
- Evelyn Hicks, Associate Member

Absent:

1. Ben Szablewski
2. Brittany Hernon
3. Kathleen Duffy
- Councilmember Scott Robertson, Town Board Liaison (excused)
- Danielle Bagley, Associate Member

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Ms. Geller, to approve the Environmental Commission meeting minutes from April 16, 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 a conference call held on May 14, 2026, with Davie Resource Group and representatives from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) regarding a proposed change in scope to include a Community Forestry Management Plan funded under the existing grant budget. Chairperson Amadon noted a change in DEC grant management personnel and stated that clarifications are pending regarding an audit performed earlier this year by a DEC forester. Chairperson Amadon stated that an update is anticipated within the next month.

Chairperson Amadon further stated the Commission will assist by providing photographs of representative, preferably native, trees across the Town, including any historically significant trees.

- Pollinator Protection (Bee Hotels)

Chairperson Amadon reported that Ms. Duffy had been leading discussions regarding bee hotels and related pollinator support initiatives; in Ms. Duffy's absence, Chairperson Amadon recommended deferring detailed discussion to the June meeting.

GOVERNANCE

Motion by Chairperson Amadon, seconded by Mr. Taylor to approve Ben Szablewski as Vice Chairperson.

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

Motion by Chairperson Amadon, seconded by Mr. Geller to nominate Barb Lipiew as Associate enter to the Commission.

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

Chairperson Amadon stated the Commission will vote to confirm Ms. Lipiew's Associate Member status at the next meeting.

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NEW BUSINESS

- Park Cleanup Subcommittee and Public Engagement

Ms. Hicks stated that a subcommittee has previously handled park cleanup scheduling and recommended re-establishing such a subcommittee. Mr. Wyeth volunteered to print and distribute flyers. Chairperson Amadon stated recent events were posted to the Commission's Facebook page and suggested creating an electronic poster and coordinating with the Town for social media distribution; Chairperson Amadon noted Town platforms did not post the most recent event.

Councilmember Sherman expressed appreciation on behalf of the Town and supported forming a subcommittee to schedule regular cleanups (monthly or bi-monthly), coordinating with the Highway Superintendent, Mr. Adams.

Mr. Wyeth volunteered to serve on the cleanup subcommittee. Ms. Geller proposed combining cleanups with family-friendly activities, such as crafting bee hotels or butterfly houses, to attract parents and children; Ms. Geller volunteered to participate on the subcommittee. Ms. Lakomski supported the combined event concept and expressed interest in assisting, noting weekend constraints but willingness to participate.

Members discussed additional educational components, including pollinator gardens, home habitat certification, and pesticide alternatives, with potential public workshops during winter months when attendance is typically higher. Mr. Wyeth offered contacts for beekeeping and pesticide-reduction presentations. Ms. Geller stated she has a contact affiliated with Cornell who could present on small farms, pollinators, and related topics during winter.

- Planning Spreadsheet and AI Data Centers

Chairperson Amadon stated the Planning Spreadsheet will be reviewed at the June meeting prior to the summer recess (no meetings in July and August), to reassess priorities. Chairperson Amadon raised potential environmental and infrastructure impacts associated with large AI data centers, including power grid strain and electricity costs, and suggested preparing a formal recommendation to the Town Board addressing zoning and environmental considerations.

Ms. Hicks asked whether West Seneca is being considered for data centers and referenced a one-year moratorium on battery storage facilities. Councilmember Sherman stated she is not aware of any current plans or proposals for data centers in West Seneca and will inquire regarding any interest or plans.

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ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Wyeth, seconded by Mr. Tuberdyke, to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 PM.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Motion: Carried

Respectfully submitted by Matthew Fincel, Secretary to the Environmental Commission

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Fincel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.