

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Town of West Seneca Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairperson Amadon at 6:34 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present:

1. Robert Amadon, Chairperson
2. Barbara Lipiew
3. Ben Szablewski
4. Charles Tuberdyke
5. Gina Geller
6. Haris Ismail
7. Kathleen Duffy
8. Ryan Taylor
- Councilmember Mary Sherman, Town Board Liaison

Absent:

1. Brittany Hernon (Excused)
- Councilmember Scott Robertson, Town Board Liaison (Excused)
- Danielle Bagley, Associate Member
- Evelyn Hicks, 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 February 15, 2026.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Motion: Carried

ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC

None received.

CORRESPONDENCE

No new correspondence.

ONGOING COMMISSION PROJECTS

- **Update on Tree Inventory Grant**

Chairperson Amadon reported that the Commission is awaiting feedback from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) regarding a grant change. After Davey Resource Group completed the tree inventory on Town of West Seneca-owned streets, the Commission decided to use the remaining funds to complete the required Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP) based on the collected data, rather than inventorying trees in parks. Highway Superintendent Brian Adams has discussed this with the NYSDEC grant administrator, who is reviewing the contract. A formal letter requesting the change will be submitted. Chairperson Amadon noted that this process does not prevent the Commission from conducting public outreach and education meetings about the grant.

- **Planning an Earth Day/Arbor Day Event**

Mr. Szablewski suggested a separate park cleanup event toward the end of May to align with better weather and provide an opportunity for students needing community service hours. Mr. Tuberdyke offered to inform teachers at his school about potential volunteer opportunities. The Commission discussed aiming for Saturday, May 16, 2026. Chairperson Amadon will contact Highway Superintendent Brian Adams to coordinate a date and select a suitable park.

- **Recycling Information**

Ms. Duffy raised the issue of how to properly educate the public on glass recycling, given the gray area of its actual processing locally. Mr. Szablewski advised emphasizing the reuse of glass items. Ms. Lipiew recounted her discussions with the Erie County Recycling Coordinator and the DEC, which revealed conflicting information. She noted a map showing that economically feasible glass recycling only occurs in limited areas near New York City, Albany, Syracuse, and Corning, with most other glass going to landfills. She also mentioned that Waste Management has purchased a glass crusher for a new business that will manufacture reflective beads for highway paint, though this will use a minuscule fraction of discarded glass. Ms. Duffy offered to share her educational recycling game, a sorting activity with images of common waste items, for use at future events.

- **Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper Presentation on Buffalo Creek Floodplain Project**

Chairperson Amadon noted that Ms. Hernon will provide an update at the next meeting and requested members watch the recorded presentation for discussion next meeting.

GOVERNANCE

NEW BUSINESS

- **Potential Environmental Concerns with AI Data Centers**

Chairperson Amadon introduced the topic of environmental impacts from AI data centers, specifically their high water and electricity consumption. Ms. Lipiew connected this to local concerns about battery storage facilities. Ms. Geller confirmed the Town of West Seneca has a battery moratorium in effect until October 2026. Ms. Duffy suggested the Commission should proactively research the implementation of AI within municipal operations. Chairperson Amadon stated he will add the topic to the Commission's planning spreadsheet for future research and discussion. Mr. Ismail advised that any new development proposals come before the Town of West Seneca Planning Board, which offers an opportunity for the Commission to provide official comments on environmental impacts.

- **Drain Medallions**

Ms. Lipiew reported finding several "No Dumping, Drains to Creek" medallions in storage at the Burchfield Nature & Art Center. It was noted that many medallions have disappeared due to adhesive failure in local weather conditions. Mr. Szablewski suggested keeping some for educational purposes. Chairperson Amadon stated he would give the remaining medallions to Highway Superintendent Adams.

- **Erie County Environmental Events**

Mr. Taylor announced two upcoming Erie County events. A household paint collection event will be held on April 18, 2026, at SUNY Buffalo State, requiring pre-registration. The annual County Earth Day event will take place on April 20, 2026, at the Northland Training Center and will feature giveaways and the Dare to Repair Café. Registration is required for both the main event and the repair café.

- **Member Resignation**

Mr. Ismail announced that this would be his final meeting, as he is resigning from the Commission. He thanked the members for the experience. Chairperson Amadon thanked Mr. Ismail for his service and contributions.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Szablewski, seconded by Ms. Lipiew, to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 PM.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Motion: Carried

WEST SENECA COMMUNITY CENTER
1300 UNION ROAD
WEST SENECA, NY 14224

WEST SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 19, 2026

Respectfully submitted by Matthew Fincel, Secretary to the Environmental Commission

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