



# Buffalo Environmental Management Commission

## MINUTES

**Meeting of Wednesday, May 19, 2010**

The meeting started at 8:15 AM and was held in Room 920 City Hall.

**Commissioners Attending:** John Hackney, Frank Armento, Joseph Gardella and Art Robinson

**Not Attending:** David Hahn-Baker, Charles Grieco, John Bauda

**Others Attending:** Dennis Sutton (COB support staff)

### **Minutes**

The notes for the April 2009 meeting were taken by J. Gardella and not yet transcribed into minutes. The April 2010 minutes were tabled due to a lack of quorum.

### **TIP Sheet**

The May TIP SHEET discussed the Solar America Cities Program. Interim Chair Gardella requested that Dana Bobinchek be invited to the July BEMC meeting to discuss this and other programs.

### **SEQRA/Sustainable Development**

The Canal Side Development Findings Statement was received and reviewed. There was a general discussion regarding the rationale of the Pro Bass development

**LED Streetlights** – no report

**Brownfields Update** – updates on 90 Hopkins, 1318 Niagara Street and Union Ship Canal cleanup projects.

**Pest Management Board** – no discussion this meeting

**Green House Gas Inventory and Report** – no discussion this meeting

### **Urban Farming**

Testing parameters for food crops are being established for the Wilson Street Farm through cooperation with Cornell University.

There was a general discussion regarding the Corps of Engineers dredging project in the Buffalo River and whether future dredging spoils could be used for urban farming. The consensus was that the material would require rigorous analysis before being considered for this use.

Interim Chair Gardella had followed up with contact to Detroit regarding zoning changes for urban farming in that city. Detroit is still in the process of formulating their zoning changes. He

request that Brendan Mehaffy and John Fell be invited to the June meeting to discuss urban farming, proposed zoning changes and the BOA progress

**City Web Page**

No action.

**Membership**

Art Robinson has been appointed by the Mayor and all paperwork with City Clerk is complete. Joe Gardella has been communicating with Emily Bauer and the Mayor's office to encourage appointments for the renewal of Commissioner Frank Armento and filling final open seat.

**Other**

Interim Chair Gardella mentioned that the University of Buffalo may be considering the construction of a new Earthquake Study Center.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM. Next scheduled meeting is to be June 16, 2010.