



Buffalo Environmental Management Commission

MINUTES

Meeting of Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Commissioners Attending: Joseph Gardella, David Hahn-Baker (by phone), John Hackney, Frank Armento, Michael Sendor, Charles Grieco. The meeting started at 8:10 AM.

Not attending:

Others Attending: Dennis Sutton (staff)

Minutes: The minutes for the March 2007 meeting were approved.

SEQRA/ Sustainable Development

Commissioner Tobe was unable to attend to discuss the Atwater House demolition. J. Gardella rescheduled for May 3, 2007.

The proposed River Wright ethanol facility was discussed – Council is seeking an Environmental Impact Study. It was decided that the May BEMC meeting would focus on learning more about the proposal. J. Gardella is to draft a letter to the Planning Board and the Common Council.

F. Armento expressed concern regarding the Colvin Estates housing projects, mentioning that he thought the Negative Declaration narrative should have had a more detailed elaboration and asked how the Negative Declaration progressed procedurally. He mentioned that it was difficult to comment on the finding after the decision was made.

The commission is looking to be included on the mailing list whenever an EAF is issued – short or long form. The Commission would like to provide recommendations to all City Departments on SEQRA issues. The Atwater House demolition was an example where the Commission could have advised the City moving forward.

Hickory Woods

J. Gardella stated that the Mayor had recently visited Washington DC with a request for funding to address concerns in the Hickory Woods neighborhood. He was not sure of the status of the request.

Brownfields Update

- A public meeting for the remediation of Franczyk Park is being held tonight at the Dulski Community Center.
- Work has commenced on the remediation of the property at 858 East Ferry.
- Properties located at 240 Kensington and 59 Memorial Drive are scheduled for environmental assessment.

Pest Management Board

There was no meeting held in April for the Pest Management Board. It was proposed that a joint meeting of the PMB and BEMC be held in June.

Greenhouse Gas

J. Gardella sent a letter to Mayor regarding recommendations for implementing a Climate Protection Plan for the City of Buffalo. There has been no response from the Mayors office.

City Forestry, Parks, Vacant Properties

Awaiting feedback from Council Members Kearns and LoCurto regarding information from National Grid and Erie County's forestry practices, including planting, trimming and maintenance.

TIP Sheet

A tip sheet is to be generated monthly. Mailing list to include Common Council members, School Board, Wellness Institute, and Community Centers. April's Tip Sheet discussed Toronto's deep water chilling facility. J. Gardella to draft a cover letter for the Tip Sheet, to be sent to the Partnership, ECEMC, Common Council, UB Green Office, Waterfront Development Corp., and Robert Shibley of UB's Planning Department. J. Gardella will contact Andrew Goldstein of Erie County for a recycling topic for the Tip Sheet for May

Action Items

Awaiting Response or Follow up Action

- Awaiting response to J. Gardella's letter to Mayor regarding update on Environmental Management Commission appointees. Letter copied to R. Tobe and T. Wanamaker;
- Awaiting response from Mayors office regarding green house gas issues;
- Awaiting feedback from Council Members Kearns and LoCurto regarding information from National Grid and Erie County's forestry practices, including planting, trimming and maintenance;
- J. Gardella to receive BEMC files from B. Coleman's widow;

To do before next meeting

- J. Gardella to check on the viability of an intern to utilize ICLI greenhouse gas software;
- Send copy of Tip Sheet regarding LED street lights to Andrew Goldstein of Erie County and follow up with M. LoCurto regarding City actions;
- Request Greg Bernas to attend next BEMC meeting to discuss city SEQRA policy;
- Send letter to Planning regarding River Wright ethanol facility;
- Schedule meeting with R. Tobe regarding Atwater House demolition, (Scheduled May 3, 2007)
- Schedule joint meeting with PMB,
- Draft cover letter for April's Tip Sheet, send to Partnership, ECEMC, Common Council, UB Green Office, Waterfront Redevelopment Corp, UB Planning Office;
- Contact Andrew Goldstein of Erie County regarding topic for next month's Tip Sheet; and,
- Query Erie County Forestry Dept. regarding use of pesticides on City Parks.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 AM. Next scheduled meeting is May 16, 2007, 8:00 AM.