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STEPS E3 Meeting Minutes

Seneca Towns Engaging People for Solutions

Monday, 9/23/24 (6:30 pm) by Zoom

Attendees: Ave Bauder, Karel Titus, Frank Becker, Tom Bouchard, Tony Del Plato, Carrie Smalser, Phil Stannard, Theresa Lahr, Jan Quarles.

General Info / Reports (Ave)

- ❖ CHSC (Creating Healthy Schools & Communities): We're entering the last year of that grant. Sara Flack is now a Middle School Health Teacher in Waterloo.
- ❖ EPA Planning Grant: Austin Pons, from Sen Gillibrand's office, put out an RFP to connect Main Streets to natural open spaces. By TH, 9/26, Ave will know if applying for it makes sense or not. CCE can't be the applicant.
- ❖ Willard Property: The Willard Task Force met. The RFP for a Master Developer has been issued and responses are due by Oct 15. NYS' ownership of the property will eventually be handed over to Seneca County's LDC.
- ❖ (Carrie Smalser): The Romulus Town Board just approved \$5K for repair of the Historical Society's building foundation.

Sustainability (Karel)

- ❖ According to a presentation by Bruce Murray, Seneca County IDA board member, Town and school boards should be aware of the opportunity to "opt out" of developers' exemptions from paying property taxes for 15 years. That exemption is based on NYS Tax Law 487, passed in 2014. It applies to all developers, including those with solar projects.
- ❖ There are 7 food pantries now in Seneca County. Their leaders will meet in mid-October. In the south end of the County, pantries are open on Mon, Thurs, Fri, and Sat. SNAP funds have been reduced so more families than ever are showing up.

Reviews & Updates

- ❖ Theresa reported that Mike Huff is a new STEPS Micro-Enterprise applicant for his landscaping business. STEPS was not awarded grant funds from its applications to RACF and Robert Wood

Johnson. Its application to the Mueller Fdn for \$25K (for Water Tower Park) is due at end of Sept. STEPS would hear back from them in Nov. and from “Golden Pear” by end of the year.

- ❖ Tony reported that ICAG (Interlaken Community Action Group) is applying for incorporation. The DOT will review the plans that Design Connect completed for Water Tower Park, including lines for parking. Jae Darling and Ryan Staychock met with us about a possible rain garden. The watershed spans 450 acres which is too large for a rain garden to serve as a flood buffer. Instead, it would serve as a teaching prototype near the future pavilion.

Upcoming Events & Meetings

Sun, Sept 29 (2-5 pm) ParkFest: official opening of Water Tower Park, Interlaken.

Fri, Oct 4 (Time TBA): Andi Pisacano’s Art Exhibit at The Three Bears, Ovid.

Mon, Oct 7 (10:30 am): Personal Health & Wellness. Frank Becker will present his proposal to carry out the “Good Neighbor” program - an organized way for neighbors to help each other.

Sat, Oct 19 (9am- 1:30 pm) STEPS Annual Day of Service.

Sat, Oct 26 (5-7 pm) Trunk or Treat, Ovid (700 people attended last year!)

Next E3 Meeting: Mon, Oct 28 (6:30-7:30 pm) by Zoom.

Minutes taken by Jan Quarles, STEPS. (607) 280-7730 or jqarles@pivitalphp.org