



Buffalo Environmental Management Commission

MINUTES

Meeting of Wednesday, June 15th, 2016

The meeting started at 8:30 AM and was held in Room 901 City Hall.

Commissioners Attending: A. Robinson, D. Hahn-Baker, J. Gardella, F. Armento, C. Grieco

Not Attending: J. Hackney

Others Attending: D. Sutton (COB support staff), J. Paananen (COB Director of Environmental affairs), Mark McGovern (BNMC), Marc Romanowski (Hopkins Sorgi & Romanowski)

1. **Minutes** – Minutes for the November 2015, January, April and May 2016 meetings were tabled. There was no quorum. There were no meetings for December 2015, February and March 2016. J. Gardella to provide meeting minutes for July 2015.

2. **SEQRA/Sustainable Development**

A. M. Romanowski and M. McGovern were present to provide information on the 854 Ellicott Street parking ramp. This is a former City-owned ramp that will be reconstructed to hold over 1800 parking spaces and will serve the needs of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus. The new lot is located on Ellicott Street, East North Street, Goodrich Street and abuts the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus. The new ramp will fit inside the footprint of the former City ramp and will be handicapped accessible.

The development project will include some on-site storm water retention in the form of below grade holding tanks.

The project site will be rezoned to CM (commercial).

B. M. Romanowski provided additional information regarding the Queen City Landing project. There was a general discussion about demolition debris, bird impacts, site contamination, building height and the on-site parking structure.

Mr. Grieco questioned why the project was given a negative declaration by the Planning Board when it appeared as if a positive declaration appeared more appropriate. He indicated that the BEMC should have been more informed on the SEQRA issues with the project and was concerned about BEMC involvement in the process with the Planning Board. He expected to see a more extensive alternative analysis for the project.

There was a general discussion regarding communication with the Planning Board and the gradual transition to incorporate zoning and planning reflected in the Green Code.

J. Gardella indicated that communications with the Planning Board seemed to have lessened during the past several months and that he would contact the Executive Director of the Office of Strategic Planning to why the BEMC has been bypassed on some significant and sensitive issues. He was concerned that the SEQRA process was not being followed.

J. Paananen attended later in the meeting and J. Gardella reiterated his concerns regarding communication with the Planning Board and the need to follow the SEQRA process. Mr. Paananen indicated that he would work with Dr. Gardella and the BEMC to improve communications.

Other

- M. Romanowski and M. McGovern indicated that they were aware of demolition waste being diverted from the Battaglia facility due to the Attorney General's recent action to land owned by Mr. Carl Paladino. It is thought that Mr. Paladino had petitioned the NYSDEC for a Beneficial Use Determination (BUD) for the demolition waste.
- D. Sutton expressed concern regarding the lack of regulations/structure/permitting process for urban farming activities in the City. He suggested that the Common Council and the Mayor should be made aware of the possible concerns that are connected with the farming activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2016.