

**HOST COMMUNITIES
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 3, 2017 – 12:00 p.m.
Niagara County Department of Economic Development
6311 Inducon Corporate Drive
Sanborn, New York 14132**

Representatives Present:

Mark Laurrie
Paul Casseri, Superintendent
Lou Paonessa
Tom Burgasser, Esq.
Scott Hapeman, Esq.
Lee Wallace, Supervisor, VICE CHAIRPERSON
Steve Broderick, Supervisor
Thomas O'Donnell, Esq., CHAIRPERSON

Niagara Falls City School District
Lewiston Porter School District
New York Power Authority
Niagara County
Niagara Wheatfield School District
Town of Niagara
Town of Lewiston
City of Niagara Falls

Alternates/Guests:

Jackie Siegmann
Jeanne Leccese, Director
Angelo Massaro, Esq.

Town of Niagara
Niagara River Greenway Commission
Niagara Falls City School District

Staff Present:

Mary Mellon, Recording Secretary
Stan Widger, Esq., NPC Counsel, Nixon Peabody

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- 1.0 Call to Order**
Chairperson O'Donnell called the Host Communities Standing Committee meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.
- 2.0 Roll Call**
Ms. Mellon called the roll.
- 3.0 Pledge of Allegiance**
Chairperson O'Donnell led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4.0 Introductions**
- 5.0 Approval of Meeting Minutes of August 1, 2017**
Mr. Wallace made a motion, seconded by Mr. Paonessa, to approve the meeting minutes of August 1, 2017. Motion passed.
- 6.0 Niagara River Greenway Commission Update – Jeanne Leccese, Executive Director**

Ms. Leccese explained that it has been one year since she was brought on board with the Commission. She welcomed Steve Broderick as a new Commissioner on the NRG. Ms. Leccese stated that there will be some shifts in the meeting structure. The Commission currently meets every other month on the 3rd Tuesday. This has been changed to a business meeting of all Commissioners where previously only executive officers attended. This will provide updates and an opportunity for commissioners to share ideas. The General Meeting will not change. Projects will be presented and voted on for consistency.

Ms. Leccese stated that the Citizen Advisory Committee has four priorities they will concentrate on in the coming year. First will be to complete the Niagara River Greenway Trail. They will identify trail gaps and develop a strategic plan that will include consistent Greenway Trail signage in conjunction with local trail signage. Priority 2 is "Where Green meets Blue," to support a healthy riparian ecosystem and implement Niagara River Greenway Habitat Conservation Strategy. Third will be to create a global eco-tourism destination, and finally to seek public engagement by joining with Buffalo Public Schools to implement a water-focused school program; and develop a robust Volunteer Corps to provide trail maintenance.

6.0 Niagara River Greenway Commission Update – Jeanne Leccese, Executive Director (Continued...)

Ms. Leccese explained that the Greenway Project Proposal application has been updated with two changes: one hard copy of the application and one electronic version. She will do a press release when the application is ready. They will be reinforcing the application process by highlighting how to apply for funding. They are revising the by-laws to reduce meetings from six to four in 2019. They will still hold five meetings in 2018 to insure applicants have the new information.

Mr. Ferraro stated that one of the components of the Greenway is the connection of the trails and other corridors. There are three designated State trails...the Seaway, Wine and Erie Canal. The importance of these trails should be stressed when negotiating funding opportunities with municipalities. Ms. Leccese stated that they do have discussions about those trails and she will pass this information on to the Commission.

7.0 HCSC 3-Year Audit Update – S. Hapeman

Mr. Hapeman explained that since the Committee was unable to come to a unanimous decision on a firm to perform the 3-year audit of the Host Communities Standing Committee, the Finance/Audit Committee recommends that a new RFP be prepared and sent to all auditors that were solicited three years ago. Mr. Burgasser made a motion to send out a new RFP for the 3-year Audit of the HCSC, seconded by Mr. Hapeman. Motion passed.

8.0 Approval of the Annual Report to NYPA

Mr. Widger explained that this report, which is similar to previous reports that are submitted each year, outlines expenditures, projects, bank accounts, etc. Mr. Hapeman made a motion to approve the Annual Report to NYPA, seconded by Mr. Burgasser. Motion passed.

9.0 Any other Matters

8.0 Next Meeting: November 28, 2017 - 12:00 p.m.

9.0 Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Hapeman, seconded by Mr. Burgasser. Meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary P. Melloni
Recording Secretary