

HOST COMMUNITIES  
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, June 26, 2018  
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  
Tom Prohaska  
Sherri Corulli  
Seth Piccirillo

Town of Niagara  
Buffalo News  
City of Niagara Falls  
City of Niagara Falls

**Staff Present:**

Mary Melloni, 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 12:13 p.m.

**2.0 Roll Call**

Ms. Melloni called the roll.

**3.0 Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairperson O'Donnell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4.0 Introductions**

**5.0 Election of HCSC Chairperson/Vice Chairperson/Secretary for Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 - S. Widger**

Mr. Widger explained that the HCSC is required to elect a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary for the fiscal year, this year being July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

Nominations are open for the position of Chairperson. Mr. Laurrie nominated Mr. O'Donnell for the position, seconded by Mr. Hapeman. No other nominations; closed nominations. All in favor. Mr. O'Donnell was elected Chairperson for the fiscal year July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

Nominations are open for the position of Vice Chairperson. Mr. O'Donnell nominated Mr. Wallace for the position, seconded by Mr. Casseri. No other nominations; closed nominations. All in favor. Mr. Wallace was elected Vice Chairperson for the fiscal year July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

**5.0 Election of HCSC Chairperson/Vice Chairperson/Secretary for Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 - S. Widger (Con't...)**

Nominations are open for the position of Secretary. Mr. O'Donnell nominated Ms. Melloni for the position, seconded by Mr. Wallace. No other nominations; closed nominations. All in favor. Ms. Melloni was elected Secretary for the fiscal year July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

**7. City of Niagara Falls**

**7.1 Gill Creek Corridor Reforestation Project –S. Corulli  
(Determined Consistent by NRG on 6/19/2018; approved for funding in the amount of \$100,000 by City of Niagara Falls on 6/07/2018)**

Ms. Corulli stated that the City of Niagara Falls proposes to renaturalize the Gill Creek corridor between Hyde Park and the Upper Niagara River by replacing trees lost to disease, insect infestation, urban development and other causes, both natural and man-made. The City has undertaken an initiative to repopulate the city's urban forest with trees indigenous to the area. Up to this point, the initiative has focused primarily on street trees; this project seeks to expand the initiative to include the Gill Creek corridor beginning with Hyde Park and extending to the Upper Niagara River at the site of RiverView Heritage Park, the site of the Old Stone Chimney.

Mr. Widger stated that the project meets all procedural requirements. A motion was made by Mr. Laurie and seconded by Mr. Hapeman, to approve funding for the Gill Creek Corridor Reforestation Project in the amount of \$100,000.

***A roll call vote was taken.***

|                                 |            |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| <i>Town of Lewiston</i>         | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Town of Niagara</i>          | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Lewiston Porter</i>          | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>City of Niagara Falls</i>    | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Niagara-Wheatfield</i>       | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Niagara County</i>           | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>New York Power Authority</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Niagara Falls Schools</i>    | <i>Yes</i> |

***The resolution was thereupon approved.***

**7.2 Niagara Falls Winter Skating Project –S. Piccirillo  
(Determined Consistent by NRG on 3/20/2018; approved for funding in the amount of \$200,000 by City of Niagara Falls on 6/07/2018)**

Mr. Piccirillo explained that the Niagara Greenway funds would be specially used to procure a temporary ice skating rink facility that will be assembled at the municipal parking lot, next to 114 Buffalo Avenue, Niagara Falls, New York. This location is directly across Buffalo Avenue from the entrance to Niagara Falls State Park. It also sits in the middle of the downtown tourism district, directly next to the Destination Niagara Falls Visitor Center, and within .25 miles of ten new hotels and hundreds of millions of dollars of private/public investment. The Niagara Falls Winter Skating Project's purpose is to better activate downtown Niagara Falls during the winter months. In recent years, we have seen national, and international, interest in Niagara Falls spike.

**7.2 Niagara Falls Winter Skating Project –S. Piccirillo (Continued...)**

The “Frozen Falls” have captivated media audiences around the world, drawing in tourists during months that usually see a steep visitation decline. The natural beauty of our waterfront is impressive in every season. However, the local community fails to make a connection to our natural resources in winter, due to a lack of activities. We must find more ways to draw people to the waterfront in the winter months. Ice skating, between December and March of each year, is a proven way to attract visitors and families to any area. Recent successes in the City of Buffalo and the Village of Lewiston, give the City of Niagara Falls confidence that outdoor ice skating resonates with regional residents.

Mr. Widger stated that the project meets all procedural requirements. A motion was made by Mr. Wallace and seconded by Mr. Hapeman, to approve funding for the Niagara Falls Winter Skating project in the amount of \$200,000.

***A roll call vote was taken.***

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Town of Lewiston         | Yes |
| Town of Niagara          | Yes |
| Lewiston Porter          | Yes |
| City of Niagara Falls    | Yes |
| Niagara-Wheatfield       | Yes |
| Niagara County           | Yes |
| New York Power Authority | Yes |
| Niagara Falls Schools    | Yes |

***The resolution was thereupon approved.***

**8. Niagara County**

**8.1 D’Amelio Park Playground –S. Corulli  
(Determined Consistent by NRCG on 6/19/2018; approved for funding in the amount of \$25,000 by Niagara County on 12/05/2017)**

Ms. Corulli explained that the playground equipment is old and obsolete and due to the Hope VI project a lot of equipment was lost. The City purchased equipment and installed it, however they ran into some problems and had to rethink what they were doing. This ran into some cost overruns and there was a resolution from Niagara County generously pledging \$25,000 from their Greenway funds to assist in payment of the cost overruns. Legislator Steed brought this to the Legislature and it was a good joint effort.

Mr. Widger stated that the project meets all procedural requirements. A motion was made by Mr. Burgasser and seconded by Mr. Broderick, to approve funding for the D’Amelio Park Playground Project in the amount of \$25,000.

***A roll call vote was taken.***

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Town of Lewiston         | Yes |
| Town of Niagara          | Yes |
| Lewiston Porter          | Yes |
| City of Niagara Falls    | Yes |
| Niagara-Wheatfield       | Yes |
| Niagara County           | Yes |
| New York Power Authority | Yes |
| Niagara Falls Schools    | Yes |

***The resolution was thereupon approved.***

**9.0 Town of Lewiston**

**9.1 Discover Niagara Shuttle – B. Rotella**  
**(Determined Consistent by NRCG on 7/18/2017; approved for funding in the amount of \$55,000 by the Town of Lewiston on 2/26/2018)**

Mr. Rotella explained that the Discover Niagara Shuttle requests additional funding to offset costs based on two new stops--Academy Park and Stella Niagara preserve. The funding will be to develop and produce new signs, brochures, upgrades to mobile app and GPS Live Tracking System. He explained that any time there is a new stop it requires a lot of modifications. They are also producing a new video will highlight all of the Niagara River Greenway stops and specifically the Village of Lewiston projects. This is the last year of their pilot program and next year they will go to their sustainability plan and will be able to sustain this project on their own. They have a plan to be self-sufficient in the future and they also acknowledge the support that Niagara County and the Town of Lewiston has given them on their website.

Mr. Paonessa stated that the Committee should be careful when the Town of Lewiston designates that it is designating its funds to the National Heritage Commission that it is designated according to this plan. He stated that NYPA does not believe that HCSC funds should be used for ongoing operations and this is different, so when designating funds that it designates and matches the application.

Mr. Widger stated that the project meets all procedural requirements. A motion was made by Mr. Laurie and seconded by Mr. Burgasser, to approve funding for the Discover Niagara Shuttle Project in the amount of \$55,000.

***A roll call vote was taken.***

|                                 |            |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| <i>Town of Lewiston</i>         | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Town of Niagara</i>          | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Lewiston Porter</i>          | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>City of Niagara Falls</i>    | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Niagara-Wheatfield</i>       | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Niagara County</i>           | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>New York Power Authority</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Niagara Falls Schools</i>    | <i>Yes</i> |

***The resolution was thereupon approved.***

**9.0 Any other Matters**

**9.1 Approval of Minutes of March 27, 2018**

Mr. Broderick made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laurie, to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2018 meeting. Motion passed.

**10.0 Next Meeting: September 25, 2018 – 12:00 p.m.**

**11.0 Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Paonessa, seconded by Mr. Laurie. Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Mary P. Melloni  
Recording Secretary