

**HOST COMMUNITIES
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, October 8, 2019

Niagara County Department of Economic Development

6311 Inducon Corporate Drive

Sanborn, New York 14132

Representatives Present:

Mark Laurrie
Paul Casseri
Lou Paonessa
Tom Burgasser, Esq.
Scott Hapeman, Esq.
Lee Wallace, Supervisor, VICE CHAIRPERSON
Bill Geiben
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
Sherry Shepherd-Corulli
Alex Domaradzki
David Graf
David Kinyon
Susan Geissler
Pete Henderson

Town of Niagara
Buffalo News
City of Niagara Falls – Ash Tree Removal
Gratwick Riverside Park Improvements
Niagara Post Theater
Lock Tenders Tribute
Lock Tenders Tribute
Lock Tenders Tribute

Staff Present:

Mary Melloni, Recording Secretary
Stan Widger, Esq., NPC Counsel, Nixon Peabody – via teleconference
Michael Casale, Niagara County Department of Economic Development

1.0 Call to Order

Chairperson O'Donnell called the Host Communities Standing Committee meeting to order at 12:05 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 Approval of Meeting Minutes of March 19, 2019

Mr. Laurrie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Casseri, to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2019 meeting. Motion passed.

6. City of Niagara Falls

6.1 City of Niagara Falls Ash Tree Removal & Replacement – Sherry Shepherd-Corulli
(Approved for funding in the amount of \$175,000 by City of Niagara Falls on 9/18/2019; Determined Consistent by NRGC on 11/21/2018)

Ms. Corulli explained that the City of Niagara Falls plans to remove ash trees that have become infested with the Emerald Ash Borer which has devastated thousands of ash trees throughout the City. The diseased trees will be replaced with alternate varieties of indigenous trees. The trees are located in various parks, the gorge waterfront district, and various other locations throughout the greenway corridor. This project will focus on the removal and replacement of approximately 280 dead and dying ash trees. Mr. Widger stated that the project does meet all procedural requirements. Mr. Wallace made a motion, seconded by Mr. Burgasser, to approve funding of the City of Niagara Falls Ash Tree Replacement project in the amount of \$175,000.

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.

7.0 Niagara County

7.1 City of N. Tonawanda Gratwick Riverside Park Improvements – Alex Domaradzki,
Director of Youth, Parks, Recreation & Seniors
(Approved for funding in the amount of \$316,000 by Niagara County on 9/19/2019; Determined Consistent by NRGC on 9/10/2019)

Mr. Domaradzki explained that the City of North Tonawanda is proposing the addition of two 30 foot ADA portable restroom trailers spaced strategically in the park to maximize their purpose and use by visitors to the park. The second part of the proposal is adding two 30 x 60 foot pavilions to the northwest and southwest ends of the park to provide additional areas for social and event gatherings. This would be an additional source of income to the City through pavilion rentals. Mr. Widger stated that the project does meet all procedural requirements. Mr. Hapeman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Burgasser, to approve funding of the City of North Tonawanda Gratwick Riverside Park Improvements project in the amount of \$316,000.

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 Post Theater, Inc. – David Graf
(Approved for funding in the amount of \$120,000 by Niagara County on 9/19/2019; Determined Consistent by NRCG on 6/11/2019)

Mr. Graf explained that this project represents the revitalization of a depression era military movie theater into a multi-media entertainment venue to facilitate awareness and learning through the Performing Arts. The Niagara Post Theater Inc. was established two years ago to pursue the goal of adaptive re-use of the military post movie theater at Fort Niagara State Park. Niagara Post Theater recently completed the processing of a 20-year cooperative agreement with the State of New York allowing usage rent free with no revenue sharing in exchange for the buildings and grounds being renovated, improved and maintained.

Mr. Widger stated that the project does meet all procedural requirements. Mr. Laurrie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Burgasser, to approve funding of the Niagara Post Theater project in the amount of \$120,000.

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.

7.3 Lockport Locks Heritage District Corporation Lock Tenders Tribute Phase III – David Kinyon
(Approved for funding in the amount of \$134,000 by Niagara County on 9/19/2019; Determined Consistent by NRCG on 11/15/2016)

Mr. Kinyon explained that the first four figures of the Lock Tenders Tribute are nearing completion and they are looking forward to installation of those figures in the Spring. Phase II of the project, which is an additional five figures, will be completed in 2020. Mr. Kinyon stated that this is the final draw on the greenway funds from Niagara County, and that they were able to match the \$400,000 with a CFA Grant and other funding. He expressed their appreciation for the support from Niagara County.

Mr. Widger stated that the project does meet all procedural requirements. Mr. Casseri made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wallace, to approve funding of the Lockport Lock Tenders Tribute project in the amount of \$134,000.

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.

7.4 Youngstown Water Street Sidewalk Project – R.T. Burgasser, Esq.
(Approved for funding in the amount of \$100,000 by Niagara County on 1/31/2017; Determined Consistent by NRCG on 1/19/2016; Niagara County requesting withdrawal of funding approved by NC on 8/06/2019)

Mr. Burgasser explained that this was a project that was approved for funding by Niagara County and the Host Communities Standing Committee in January of 2017; however, the project for various construction reasons, cannot be performed. After consulting with Youngstown, it was agreed that the funding would be withdrawn at this time and returned to the Niagara County greenway fund account.

A motion was made by Mr. Burgasser and seconded by Mr. Hapeman to withdraw the funding for the Youngstown Water Street Sidewalk Project in the amount of \$100,000. Motion passed.

7.0 Any other Matters

Annual Report of the Host Community Standing Committee – July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

Mr. Widger explained that the Annual Report of this body for the fiscal year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 is due to the New York Power Authority and is before the members for review and approval.

Mr. Wallace made a motion to approve the Annual Report and forward to the New York Power Authority, seconded by Mr. Burgasser. Motion carried.

8.0 Next Meeting: November 26, 2019 – 12:00 p.m.

9.0 Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Hapeman, seconded by Mr. Burgasser. Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary P. Melloni
Recording Secretary