

**HOST COMMUNITIES  
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, May 21, 2025 – 12:00 p.m.  
Town of Niagara Town Hall - Boardroom  
7000 Lockport Road, Niagara Falls NY**

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**Representatives Present:**

Sylvia Virtuoso, Supervisor	Town of Niagara
Angelo Massaro, Esq.	Niagara Falls City School District
Paul Casseri, Superintendent	Lewiston Porter School District
Lou Paonessa	New York Power Authority
Thomas Burgasser, Esq. (via teleconference)	Niagara County
Scott Hapeman, Esq.	Niagara Wheatfield School District
Steve Broderick, Supervisor, VICE CHAIRPERSON	Town of Lewiston
Robert M. Restaino, Mayor, CHAIRPERSON	City of Niagara Falls

**Alternates/Guests:**

Jackie Siegmann, Treasurer	Town of Niagara
Kevin Forma	City of Niagara Falls

**Staff Present:**

Mary Melloni, Secretary

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**1.0 Call to Order**

Chairperson Restaino 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**

**4.0 Introductions**

**5.0 Approval of Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2025 Meeting**

Mr. Casseri made a motion, seconded by Ms. Virtuoso, to approve the meeting minutes of February 11, 2025. Motion carried.

**6.0 Town of Niagara**

**6.1 Veterans Memorial Community Park Master Plan – S. Virtuoso**

*(Consultation by NRCG on 3/09/2021; Approved for funding in the amount of \$3,369,000 by HCSC on 3/16/2021; HCSC approved \$1,350,000 additional funding on 9/13/2022; approved for additional funding of \$500,000 by HCSC on 6/18/2024)*

Ms. Virtuoso explained that the additional funding in the amount of \$500,000 was originally for cost overruns; however, the Town was able to complete the project without additional engineering costs, lower than anticipated pond remediation costs, and lower cost overruns in total. The Town will be returning \$98,097.75.

**6.0 Town of Niagara**

**6.1 Veterans Memorial Community Park Master Plan – S. Virtuoso**

Mr. Massaro made a motion, seconded by Mr. Burgasser, to approve the return of funds as presented.

***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. City of Niagara Falls – Return of Funds**

**7.1 Old Stone Chimney Relocation – R. Restaino**

*(Determined Consistent by NRGC on 5/20/2014; approved for funding in the amount of \$200,000 by the HCSC on 6/30/2014; HCSC approved reallocation of funding from construction costs to additional site development on 9/13/2016)*

Kevin Forma explained that the City is currently in the process of developing their Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP) which includes the area occupied by the OSC as well as the surrounding areas. As they identify potential access and uses along the waterfront, the plans for the surrounding area are likely to change from the current condition; therefore, the City feels it is in everyone's best interest to finalize the LWRP and then identify the highest and best use for the Greenway funds that fit publicly identified projects in the LWRP. The amount to be returned is \$183,241.74.

Ms. Virtuoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Burgasser, to approve the return of funds as presented:

***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**

Mr. Hapeman explained that at the previous Niagara Power Coalition meeting in March, he informed the membership that Niagara Wheatfield plans to initially finance the NW Outdoor Instruction project using funds saved from the District's allocation from the HCSC funds. The District will then use future annual allocations to replenish the balance of its accrued fund. This will benefit the District by saving the cost of bonding the project. He explained that this project would qualify for funding from either the Greenway fund or Host Community fund allocations. This issue was discussed in detail with each member prior to the March NPC meeting and the District understands that there is no objection to this intended procedure.

**10.0 Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 17, 2025**

**11.0 Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Burgasser, seconded by Mr. Hapeman. Meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary P. Melloni  
Recording Secretary