

HOST COMMUNITIES STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 5, 2009 – 12:00 p.m.

Niagara County Department of Economic Development

6311 Inducon Corporate Drive

Sanborn, New York 14132

Representatives Present:

Fred M. Newlin, Supervisor, Vice Chairperson

Thomas O'Donnell, Esq. (Via Teleconference)

Donald Rappold, Assistant Superintendent

Rob Daly, Special Advisor, Relicensing

William L. Ross, Chairman, NC Legislature

Scott Hapeman, Esq., Counsel

Cynthia A. Bianco, Interim Superintendent

Michael Risman, Esq.

Town of Lewiston

City of Niagara Falls

Lewiston-Porter School District

New York Power Authority

Niagara County

Niagara Wheatfield School District

Niagara Falls City School District

Town of Niagara

Guests:

Tom Burgasser, Esq.

Jackie Siegmann

Anthony Lanza

Niagara County

Town of Niagara

HSBC Bank

Staff Present:

Charles Miller, President, NPC

John Baird, Treasurer, NPC

Mary Melloni, Recording Secretary

Stan Widger, Esq., NPC Counsel, Nixon Peabody (via Teleconference)

Samuel M. Ferraro, Executive Director/Commissioner - Niagara County Center for

Economic Development

1.0 Call to Order

Chairman Newlin called the Host Communities Standing Committee meeting to order at 12:13 p.m.

2.0 Roll Call

Ms. Melloni called the roll; a quorum was established.

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Ross led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4.0 Approval of Meeting Minutes

4.1 May 20, 2009

Ms. Bianco made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hapeman, to approve the May 20, 2009 meeting minutes. Motion was approved.

5.0 Review / Approval of Annual Report to NYPA (Fiscal Year July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009)

Mr. Widger explained that under the HCSC Settlement Agreement from June of 2005, the Annual Report by the HCSC is required to be submitted within 60 days following the close of the fiscal year (June 30, 2009), making the due date August 29, 2009. He explained that the report tracks the items required in the Settlement Agreement under Section 7.5. The report includes projects funded; expenditures (taken from material provided by individual members); planned expenditures (one identified is related to another topic of discussion, the possibility of having a web site); balance sheet and allocations of funds; and significant correspondence (there was nothing under this item).

Mr. Daly stated that with respect to the web site, everything that the HCSC has done is currently on the NYPA web site, connected to the Relicensing web site. Minutes of meetings, projects approved, HCSC protocols, etc. Mr. Daly offered the use of this web site if the members so choose. Mr. Widger explained that it is one way to handle the Host Community Standing Committee information; however, one of the other factors is that because the HCSC is a bridge between the NYPA and the NPC, it raises the question of under whose umbrella it might be best to have the HCSC web site hosted. Mr. Widger suggested discussing this later in the meeting.

Ms. Melloni stated that the reason for the web site is for the Niagara Power Coalition to be able to post documents and reports in order to meet PAAA requirements. Mr. Daly stated that this would have to be a separate effort.

Mr. Hapeman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rappold, to approve the Annual Report of the HCSC for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009. Motion passed.

6.0 Greenway Update

6.1 Minutes of Niagara River Greenway Commission Meeting

- **May 19, 2009**
- **July 28, 2009**

Mr. Ferraro pointed out that in the May 19th minutes, beginning on the middle of page 5, there was a discussion relative to the City of Lockport project and not necessarily the discussion of this project, but the dialogue relative to the importance of the trails and how they relate to the Greenway project. Mr. Ferraro stated that in the adopted and approved Greenway plan it specifically acknowledges the key connections and linkages to the three trails in Niagara County. He pointed out the importance of the connections of those trails and how important they are to inland communities.

Mr. Newlin stated that one of the items concerning the Greenway Commission that has achieved some public discussion and observation is the letter from Ms. Wooster who represents the Niagara River Ecological Coalition, expressing concern over funding issues with regard to the Lewiston Pathway project. Mr. Newlin stated that the HCSC is unified in its belief that the Greenway Commission is to concentrate on the appropriateness or consistency of a proposed project with the Greenway Plan. It is not to get into funding; that is the purview of the standing committees throughout Western

New York. Mr. Newlin stated he has discussed this with Mr. Belue and Mr. Kresse from the Commission and they are of the same opinion.

6.0 Greenway Update (Continued...)

6.1 Minutes of Niagara River Greenway Commission Meeting

- **May 19, 2009**
- **July 28, 2009**

Mr. Burgasser stated that the Greenway Commission appears to want to place limits on the Greenway trails. In their statement to the public they indicate they are only concerned with river access points and waterfront trails on the river from Lake Ontario to Fort Niagara. Mr. Burgasser stated that the HCSC made sure that the three trails that go into Niagara County were also made a part of the Greenway. Mr. Burgasser suggested that they meet with the Commission to talk about the trails to develop a better understanding of the trails so that the Host Communities can work cooperatively with the Commission on future projects.

Chairman Newlin asked that a committee of Mr. Ferraro, Mr. Burgasser and himself meet with Mr. Kresse and Mr. Belue to discuss these issues and report back to the HCSC.

Mr. Daly stated that one of the problems the Commission had with the City of Lockport Canalside project was that they changed it materially as they presented it. He stated that the change was a good change; however, some of the votes on consistency had been done by proxy and they never saw those changes.

Mr. Rappold made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bianco, to accept the reports as submitted by Mr. Ferraro. Motion passed.

6.2 Greenway Commission Announcements/Projects Update

Mr. Ferraro stated that he was requested, along with Mr. Daly, to look at clarifying language in the public announcements once the Commission approves a project. Mr. Ferraro provided a draft letter that Mr. Daly drafted with language that will be included in correspondence that would go out after projects are approved. Mr. Ferraro stated that he and Mr. Daly agreed to what is being provided. Mr. Daly stated that the letters sent out after this last round of approvals should reflect those changes.

Mr. Ferraro stated that he is also providing the members with a running list of projects that have been approved by the NRG, but have yet to seek project sponsors through various standing committees. He also provided the Committee with a final list of who the contact person is for each entity for anyone seeking funding for a project.

7.0 New Business

Mr. Newlin indicated that the Town of Lewiston is now pursuing a splash park idea with Greenway funding and he may be able to discuss it in more detail at the next HCSC meeting.

Mr. Newlin announced that the yearly deposit was made by the NYPA on July 1, 2009 and is now available for disbursement.

Mr. Burgasser stated that in September the County will be submitting a project to the Niagara River Greenway Commission for two wading pools for children in Wheatfield.

8.0 Next HCSC Meeting: To be Determined

9.0 Adjournment

Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Daly, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary P. Melloni
Recording Secretary