

HOST COMMUNITIES STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 1, 2011 – 12:00 p.m.

Niagara County Department of Economic Development

6311 Inducon Corporate Drive

Sanborn, New York 14132

Representatives Present:

Don Rappold, Asst. Superintendent – Chairman, HCSC

Cynthia Bianco, Superintendent

Tom O'Donnell, Esq.

Rob Daly, Special Advisor, Relicensing

William L. Ross, Chairman, NC Legislature

Scott Hapeman, Esq., Counsel

Jackie Siegmann

Steve Reiter, Supervisor

Lewiston-Porter School District

Niagara Falls City School District

City of Niagara Falls

New York Power Authority

Niagara County

Niagara Wheatfield School District

Town of Niagara

Town of Lewiston

Guests:

Ed Janulionis

Hon. Robert Ortt, Mayor

Chuck Bell

Jim Sullivan

Ron Anderluh

Chris Roser, Superintendent

Thomas Burgasser, Esq.

Angelo Massaro, Esq.

Bernie Rotella

Marc Smith

David Kinyon

Carousel Society of Niagara Frontier

City of NT – Marina at Gratwick Park

City of NT – Marina at Gratwick Park

City of NT – Marina at Gratwick Park

Gill Creek Educational Nature Trail

Lewiston-Porter School District

Niagara County

Niagara Falls City School District

Town of Lewiston

Town of Lockport – Lytle Nature Preserve

Town of Lockport – Lytle Nature Preserve

Staff Present:

Charles W. Miller, President, NPC

Mary Melloni, Recording Secretary

John M. Baird, Treasurer, NPC

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 Rappold called the Host Communities Standing Committee meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

2.0 Roll Call

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

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Rappold led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4.0 HCSC Meeting Minutes of August 5, 2010

Mr. O'Donnell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ross, to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2010 meeting. Motion passed.

5.0 Project Presentations

5.1 Niagara County

5.1.1 "Kiddieland" by Carousel Society of the Niagara Frontier

Chairman Rappold indicated that this project has been approved by the Niagara County Legislature for \$30,000 and subsequently approved by the Greenway Commission on January 19, 2011.

Ed Janulionis of the Carousel Society explained that Allan Herschel not only made carousels, but from mid-20's to 1970 they made all kinds of rides, adult and kiddie rides and came up with the concept of "Kiddieland" which was adopted by many other amusement parks in the Country, including Walt Disney. Therefore, what the Carousel Society is proposing on a corner lot next to the Museum is to display rides that were manufactured by the Herschel Company in North Tonawanda. They own the rides and lot, however, need support in the amount of \$30,000 from the Greenway to complete the infrastructure of the project. They are related to the Niagara River in that the Company was started because of the wood that was available along the banks of the river.

Q. Where are the rides originally from?

A. Three of the four rides are from Page's Whistle Pig.

Mr. Janulionis explained that this will not be an amusement park; it is an interpretation of both the Alan Herschel Company and the rides will only be used by the public when the museum is open with the hope that young families will become members of the museum. The rides will be used upon buying admission to the museum, or they may purchase a family membership for an entire year. A pavilion and picnic area will also be available.

Mr. Widger agreed that all criteria have been met to bring this project to a final vote of the HCSC.

*"WHEREAS, the **County of Niagara**, on behalf of the **Carousel Society of the Niagara Frontier**, has applied to the Host Communities Standing Committee for funding in the amount of **\$30,000.00** for the **Kiddieland Project**; and WHEREAS, this project was submitted to the Niagara River Greenway Commission for consultation. WHEREAS, the Host Communities Standing Committee finds the project to be consistent with the Greenway Plan. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Host Communities Standing Committee that the funding in the amount of **\$30,000.00** for the **Kiddieland Project** is approved; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution is forwarded to HSBC Bank."*

5.0 Project Presentations

5.1 Niagara County

5.1.1 “Kiddieland” by Carousel Society of the Niagara Frontier (Continued...)

A motion was made by Mr. Ross, seconded by Mr. O’Donnell, to approve the Kiddieland project for funding in the amount of \$30,000.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

The resolution was thereupon duly adopted.

5.1.2 City of North Tonawanda: Safety and Access Improvements to the Former Marina at Gratwick Riverside Park

Chairman Rappold explained that the request is for \$300,000, which has been approved by the Niagara County Legislature and the Niagara River Greenway Commission.

Marc Smith of the City of North Tonawanda stated that this project is the culmination of a lot of work. The City brought specializing in waterfronts to conduct a survey to make sure this project would be beneficial to the City. This was an eye-opening survey showing not only how much potential the site has but also what the current liabilities are. Mr. Smith explained that they are a long way from making this a safe place for people to enjoy. Some of the problems are bulkhead stabilization along the Niagara River, degradation, broken and cracked docks, exposed electrical and no place that invites people. The funds are necessary to make these safety enhancements and improve accessibility, create visibility from the Niagara River by improving a run-down small version of a lighthouse, and create some picnic space.

Mayor Ortt added that the property is an extreme liability for the City and expanded on the safety issues that need to be addressed immediately, and some of the future uses of the property.

Q. Which concept is being considered?

A. The general consensus is Option 1—more of a full eatery along the water and special events, however, will be getting feedback from the Council and Waterfront Commission, as well as a public comment period.

5.0 Project Presentations

5.1 Niagara County

5.1.2 City of North Tonawanda: Safety and Access Improvements to the Former Marina at Gratwick Riverside Park

A. What was formerly on the site?

Q. It was a private yacht club that leased the marina from the City back in the late 1940's.

Mr. Widger agreed that all criteria have been met to bring this project to a final vote of the HCSC.

"WHEREAS, the County of Niagara, on behalf of the City of North Tonawanda, has applied to the Host Communities Standing Committee for funding in the amount of \$300,000.00 for the Safety & Access Improvements to the Former Marina at Gratwick Riverside Park Project; and WHEREAS, this project was submitted to the Niagara River Greenway Commission for consultation. WHEREAS, the Host Communities Standing Committee finds the project to be consistent with the Greenway Plan. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Host Communities Standing Committee that the funding in the amount of \$300,000.00 for the Safety & Access Improvements to the Former Marina at Gratwick Riverside Park Project is approved; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution is forwarded to HSBC Bank."

A motion was made by Mr. Ross, seconded by Ms. Bianco, to approve the Marina at Gratwick Riverside Park for funding in the amount of \$300,000.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

The resolution was thereupon duly adopted.

5.1.3 Town of Lockport Lytle Nature Preserve

Marc Smith explained that over 100 acres of land was donated to the Town of Lockport and the town also purchased a lot and a half along the road frontage to have a direct connection to the Erie Canalway trail. He explained how they incorporated suggestions from the residents in the area to protect their properties. Mr. Smith stated that this request is to expand the parking lot and build an entrance on the southeast portion of the trail which will require a short boardwalk to enter in.

5.0 Project Presentations

5.1 Niagara County

5.1.3 Town of Lockport Lytle Nature Preserve (Continued)

Mr. Smith explained that a portion of the property is controlled by the WNY Land Conservancy and it will forever be maintained as a meadow.

Q. What is the expansion of a parking area?

A. There is an existing parking lot near the canal for the Canalway Trail and they can add about 20 parking spaces to allow current use of the trail and park.

Q. Does it include signage?

A. Yes, signage, trail, recreational and environmental uses also.

Mr. Widger agreed that all criteria have been met to bring this project to a final vote of the HCSC.

*“WHEREAS, the **County of Niagara**, on behalf of the **Town of Lockport**, has applied to the Host Communities Standing Committee for funding in the amount of **\$94,802.00** for the **Lytle Nature Preserve Project**; and WHEREAS, this project was submitted to the Niagara River Greenway Commission for consultation. WHEREAS, the Host Communities Standing Committee finds the project to be consistent with the Greenway Plan. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Host Communities Standing Committee that the funding in the amount of **\$94,802.00** for the **Lytle Nature Preserve Project** is approved; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution is forwarded to HSBC Bank.”*

A motion was made by Mr. Ross, seconded by Mr. O’Donnell, to approve the Town of Lockport Lytle Nature Preserve project for funding in the amount of \$94,802.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

The resolution was thereupon duly adopted.

5.0 Project Presentations

5.2 Town of Lewiston

5.2.1 Lower Niagara River (at Pletcher Road) Comfort Station

Mr. Rotella explained that the Town of Lewiston would like to convert an unused pump house, located on 18F between the Village of Lewiston and the Village of Youngstown on the river, into a comfort station. The completed building would include bathrooms and rest stop. There is a spectacular view of the river from the location of this pump house and will make a pleasant rest stop for bikers, walkers, etc. The requested funds will cover the cost of some upgrades and engineering.

Q. Will there be benches?

A. There will be benches, bike racks.

Supervisor Reiter stated that this project had unanimous approval from his council as this will be the first step towards opening up access to the river for Town of Lewiston residents and visitors. Two bike trails meet at this location.

Mr. Widger agreed that all criteria have been met to bring this project to a final vote of the HCSC.

*“WHEREAS, the **Town of Lewiston** has applied to the Host Communities Standing Committee for funding in the amount of **\$30,000.00** for its **Lower Niagara River Road (at Pletcher Rd) Comfort Station**; and WHEREAS, this project was submitted to the Niagara River Greenway Commission for consultation. WHEREAS, the Host Communities Standing Committee finds the project to be consistent with the Greenway Plan. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Host Communities Standing Committee that the funding in the amount of **\$30,000.00** for its **Lower Niagara River Road (at Pletcher Rd) Comfort Station** is approved; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution is forwarded to HSBC Bank.”*

A motion was made by Ms. Bianco, seconded by Mr. Hapeman, to approve the Lower River Road Comfort Station project for funding in the amount of \$30,000.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

The resolution was thereupon duly adopted.

5.0 Project Presentations

5.3 Niagara Falls School District

5.3.1 Gill Creek Educational Nature Trail Project by Niagara Street Business and Professional Association

Mr. Anderluh explained that Gill Creek Park is a 7-acre park and history of the park is that there use to be a Native American village bordering the creek. It is also known that one of the only survivors of the Devil's Hole massacre used the creek to get back to his home on the Niagara River. Mr. Anderluh explained that the City, School District and a non-profit organization are making this project possible. This project meets all the requirements of a nature trail. All along the trail are various fauna, species of animals, insects, fish, birds, moss. Thus the idea to turn it into an educational nature trail for visitors, citizens and school districts. There will be field trips. There will be markers along the trail that local historians and school science teachers are assisting with to make sure the information is correct. Mr. Anderluh explained that this trail will eventually connect to the Robert Moses Parkway, then Hyde Park and then to Lewiston.

Mr. Widger agreed that all criteria have been met to bring this project to a final vote of the HCSC.

*"WHEREAS, the City of Niagara Falls School District, on behalf of the Niagara Street Area Business and Professional Association, has applied to the Host Communities Standing Committee for funding in the amount of \$102,000.00 for the Gill Creek Park Educational Nature Trail project, and WHEREAS, this project was submitted to the Niagara River Greenway Commission for consultation. WHEREAS, the Host Communities Standing Committee finds the project to be consistent with the Greenway Plan. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Host Communities Standing Committee that the funding in the amount of \$102,000.00 for the **Gill Creek Park Educational Nature Trail Project** is approved; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution is forwarded to HSBC Bank".*

A motion was made by Mr. Reiter, seconded by Mr. O'Donnell, to approve the Gill Creek Educational Nature Trail project for funding in the amount of \$102,000.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

The resolution was thereupon duly adopted.

6.0 Niagara River Greenway Commission Meeting Minutes

- 6.1 Minutes of September 21, 2010 NRG Meeting**
- 6.2 Minutes of November 16, 2010 NRG Meeting**
- 6.3 Minutes of January 20, 2011 NRG Meeting**

Mr. Ferraro explained that these are provided as informational only and he and his staff will continue to monitor and report on these meetings.

7.0 Informational Materials

- 7.1 HCSC Project Status Report**
- 7.2 NRG Submission & Determination Dates**

These were also provided as informational only.

8.0 Next HCSC Meeting: TBD

9.0 Adjournment

Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bianco, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary P. Melloni
Recording Secretary