

HOST COMMUNITIES STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 23, 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

Angelo Massaro, Esq.

Tom O'Donnell, Esq.

Rob Daly, Special Advisor, Relicensing

William L. Ross, Chairman, NC Legislature

Kerin Dumphrey, Business Manager

Michael Risman, Esq.

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:

Nancy Fischer

Chris Roser, Superintendent

Thomas Burgasser, Esq.

Delbert Ambrosia

Rosemary Sansone

Mike Johnson

Bernie Rotella

Mike Dashineau

Timothy Horanburg, Supervisor

Jackie Siegmann

Buffalo News

Lewiston-Porter School District

Niagara County

Niagara Wheatfield School District

Olcott Beach Carousel Park

Town of Lewiston

Town of Lewiston

Town of Lewiston Parks

Town of Newfane

Town of Niagara

Staff Present:

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 12:04 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 February 1, 2011

Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Mr. O'Donnell, to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2011 meeting. Motion passed.

5.0 Project Presentations

5.1 Town of Lewiston

5.1.1 Toohey Park Project

This project has been approved by the Town of Lewiston on March 14, 2011 for funding in the amount of \$76,500 and determined consistent by the Greenway Commission on May 17, 2011.

Mr. Rotella indicated that Toohey Park is a small park located in the Village of Lewiston behind Village Hall at 145 North Fourth Street. The park overlooks the Niagara River, adjacent to the Ononiagara Trail that winds its way down to the river, and it is also on Route 18F (River Road). It is 1/8 mile from Artpark and there are two more trails at that location. This park is a neighborhood park but also the trailhead to the lower river, 18F and the trails along Artpark. Currently the park is a small playground area that has some playground equipment and the project is to install more playground equipment, a basketball court and a restroom. Because the park is on the trailhead the restroom will be a perfect rest stop in that area. Mr. Dashineau stated that the trail is a direct connection to the River; the park overlooks the river and the objective is to develop some riverfront property. This is a capital project for the Town of Lewiston.

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 \$76,500.00 for its Toohey Park Project; 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 **\$76,500.00** for the **Toohey 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 Mr. O’Donnell, to approve the Toohey Park project for funding in the amount of \$76,500.

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.

5.0 Project Presentations

5.1 Town of Lewiston

5.1.2 Colonial Village Park Restoration

The request is for \$99,450, which has been approved by the Town of Lewiston on March 14, 2011; and was determined to be inconsistent by the NRGC on May 17, 2011.

Mr. Rotella explained that this is a restoration project and a capital improvement project located on Route 31 between the river and downtown Sanborn. It is approximately 1-1/2 miles from the Sanborn Area Historical Society that the HCSC approved for expansion of the farm museum and another ½ mile from downtown Sanborn where the Sanborn Streetscape project was completed. This project is also next door to the Lewiston No. 2 Fire Hall and is used by the neighborhood, as well as the Reservation.

Mr. Dashineau explained that this project does sit alongside the reservoir. Plans include building a brand new tennis court and basketball court. This project connects previously approved projects. Colonial Village is at the intersection of Sanborn and the Village of Lewiston. He also stated that the NRGC did run-down small version of a lighthouse, and create some picnic space. The park is one of two parks south of the Town of Lewiston and it is important for the area to have this park upgraded with the amenities required. It brings a lot of traffic into the area, i.e. Kids Day, gun raffles, etc. It is a nice connection between the historical society and the wine trail.

Supervisor Reiter stated that this is the last part of Lewiston that the Town has not done some work in and the park is important. He explained that this project is similar in nature to the Toohey Park project and does not understand why the NRGC determined it to be inconsistent.

Mr. Ross stated that as a former resident of Colonial Village, there is a very close-knit neighborhood between Miller, Kline and Garlow Roads, both north and south of Route 31 and certainly any improvements to the park that now exists would be a positive for the people who live in that neighborhood.

Q. Is the restoration for the tennis and basketball courts?

A. Yes, and playground equipment.

Mr. Widger agreed that notwithstanding the findings of the NRGC, this project appears to comply with the criteria set forth in the Host Community Standing Committee Relicensing Settlement Agreement.

Q. What was the objection to this project by NRGC?

A. The objection was that you cannot see the river from the park.

Mr. Widger stated that the project does meet the connectivity requirements and also as a rehabilitation of a park it appears to meet those standards.

5.0 Project Presentations

5.1 Town of Lewiston

5.1.2 Colonial Village Park Restoration (Continued...)

Mr. Burgasser stated that even in the NRGC's overall plan there is a section that refers to the connections and corridors which are a very important integral part of it and the plan itself sets forth the corridors.

Mr. Massaro stated that it was his concern that if the NRGC rejected the project because it is not adjacent to the river, will there be continuous rejections to projects that are not adjacent to the river.

Mr. Daly explained that the reference to connection to the river or proximity to the river is slightly being misused. He stated that history shows that the plan and settlement agreement provide for a broader interpretation. What was being referred to in regards to this project was being connected to the river, not necessarily meaning that it be right next to the river.

*"WHEREAS, the Town of Lewiston has applied to the Host Communities Standing Committee for funding in the amount of \$99,450.00 for its Colonial Village Park Restoration; 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 \$99,450.00 for the **Colonial Village 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 Mr. Massaro, to approve the Colonial Village Restoration Project for funding in the amount of \$99,450.

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.

Mr. Widger stated that in a case where the NRGC acts negatively, there is no 90-day waiting period.

5.0 Project Presentations

5.2 Niagara County

5.2.1 Olcott Beach Carousel Park

The request is for \$52,644, which has been determined consistent by the NRCG on May 17, 2011.

Dr. Rosemary Sansone explained that this project involves the building of an information kiosk and comfort station. Dr. Sansone reviewed the plans for the project stating that the kiosk would be a place for various tourism venues to display their pamphlets. There will be men's /women's restrooms. This will be in the park that will be an historic amusement park with 5 vintage rides. Inside they are connected to a project recently funded by Greenway with the Herschel museum – a 1928 Herschel Carousel that was built in North Tonawanda at the Carousel factory. There are only 19-23 of these carousels in the entire world. The Celtic Festival draws about 10,000 people from all over the world. Signs will connect them to the information kiosk. Olcott is very well connected to major trails. Dr. Sansone reviewed the location of Olcott and its connection to the Seaway corridor and the Niagara wine trail.

Supervisor Horanburg addressed the group, explaining that Olcott turned into a dilapidated area with the change in the economy. Over the past few years they have made a tremendous effort to bring Olcott back to an area that the region will be proud of. Currently they have developed their marina so that they accommodate fishermen from all over the world. He stated that Dr. Sansone and her group were the catalyst in what has transformed Olcott into a place they can be proud of.

Mr. Burgasser stated that the resolution be subject to Niagara County getting the approval of the full Legislature. The project has already been approved by the ad hoc committee and the resolution will be on the June 7th agenda. Chairman Ross indicated that since this passed through the ad hoc committee unanimously and when it is before the Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, June 7th it should pass the same way.

Mr. Widger stated that he reviewed the requirements for project approval and there is nothing that would prevent a contingent approval based on the contingency of the County Legislature approval.

5.2 Niagara County

5.2.1 Olcott Beach Carousel Park

*“WHEREAS, the County of Niagara has applied to the Host Communities Standing Committee for funding in the amount of \$52,644.00 for the Olcott Beach Carousel Park project; 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 **\$52,644.00** for the **Olcott Beach Carousel Park** project is approved contingent on the approval of the funding by the Niagara County Legislature no later than June 8, 2011; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to HSBC Bank upon the approval of the funding by the Niagara County Legislature.”*

A motion was made by Mr. Ross, seconded by Mr. O’Donnell, to approve the Olcott Beach Carousel Park project for funding in the amount of \$52,644, contingent on the approval of the funding by the Niagara County Legislature no later than June 8, 2011

A roll call vote was taken.

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

The resolution was thereupon duly adopted.

6.0 Niagara River Greenway Commission Meeting Minutes

6.1 Minutes of March 15, 2011 NRGC 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

These were also provided as informational only.

8.0 Next HCSC Meeting: TBD

9.0 Adjournment

Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Reiter, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary P. Melloni
Recording Secretary