

HOST COMMUNITIES STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 2, 2010 – 12:00 p.m.

Niagara County Department of Economic Development

6311 Inducon Corporate Drive

Sanborn, New York 14132

Representatives Present:

Don Rappold, Asst. Supervisor – Chairman, HCSC	Lewiston-Porter School District
Cynthia A. Bianco, Superintendent – Secretary HCSC	Niagara Falls City School District
Tom O’Donnell, Esq.	City of Niagara Falls
Rob Daly, Special Advisor, Relicensing	New York Power Authority
William L. Ross, Chairman, NC Legislature	Niagara County
Scott Hapeman, Esq., Counsel	Niagara Wheatfield School District
Michael Risman, Esq. (<i>Arrived 12:15 p.m.</i>)	Town of Niagara
Steve Reiter, Supervisor	Town of Lewiston

Guests:

Aaron Besecker	Buffalo News
Chris Roser	Lewiston-Porter School District
Tom Burgasser, Esq.	Niagara County
Gerry Treichler	Sanborn Area Historical Society
Bill ??	Sanborn Area Historical Society
Mike Johnson	Town of Lewiston
Ron Winkley	Town of Lewiston
Bernie Rotella	Town of Lewiston
Michael Marra	Town of Lewiston
Mike Dashineau, Project Director	Town of Lewiston

Staff Present:

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

Mr. Rappold called the Host Communities Standing Committee meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

2.0 Roll Call

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

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Rappold led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4.0 Approval of Meeting Minutes

4.1 February 18, 2010

Mr. O’Donnell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Daly, to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2010 meeting. Motion was approved.

5.0 Project Presentations

5.1 Town of Lewiston

5.1.1 Kiwanis Park Playground Structure Replacement (\$240,275)

Mr. Rotella explained that this project is to improve playground equipment to make it ADA (American's with Disabilities Act) compliant. They will install a new rubber sub-surface for improved safety and will improve the access into Kiwanis Park. It is a capital improvement project, meets the consistency requirements of the Greenway Commission, and was determined to be consistent on May 18, 2010.

Mr. Dashineau, Project Director, explained that their current safety surface is a wood-chip area, which will be replaced with a rubber-based surface that is easily cleaned and will not reduce the safety. Accessibility for children with disabilities will be increased.

Mr. Widger, Counsel for the NPC, stated that in his opinion the project meets all the criteria to bring it to a vote of the members of the HCSC.

A motion was made by Mr. Ross, seconded by Mr. Hapeman, to approve the Kiwanis Park Playground Structure Replacement project for funding in the amount of \$240, 275.

A roll call vote was taken.

<i>Town of Lewiston</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>
<i>Town of Niagara</i>	<u><i>Absent</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 Lewiston Plateau Dog Park /Nature Preserve (\$51,500)

Mr. Rotella explained that this project is to provide an off-leash park area for about 1600 registered dog owners in Lewiston; an area for the dogs to run and play without restrictions based on animals in municipal parks. This project was presented to the Greenway Commission on May 18, 2010 and the project was tabled due to an environmental study going on for another project being funded through Greenway. At the time of that presentation Mr. Rotella stated that they were not sure of the boundaries of that study. Since then it was discovered that the dog park itself is outside of that study area on property owned by the Village of Lewiston and the study boundaries the entire area, with the exception of the dog park.

5.0 Project Presentations

5.1 Town of Lewiston

5.1.2 Lewiston Plateau Dog Park /Nature Preserve (\$51,500) Continued...

Mr. Reiter stated that one of the concerns of the Greenway Commission was whether they had reached consensus with the other groups involved in that area. Mr. Reiter provided a letter from a Dr. David R. Cooper, founder and President of the Niagara Frontier Entomological Society that confirms that they favor the plan for the dog park on the Lewiston Plateau, as well as fencing around the Wildlife Habitat development. Mr. Reiter explained that the Commission did not provide their comments until the day of the meeting; therefore they tabled their decision on the project. Mr. Reiter stated he feels that they have established that the project is outside of the study area and they have met with the habitat representatives to avoid conflict. He explained that by providing an off-leash park they are protecting the habitat area.

Mr. Rotella stated that the project was submitted to the NRG 60 days prior to May 18, 2010. Mr. Widger stated that under the Consultation category in HCSC protocols a 90-day consultation period is stated.

After additional discussion regarding a provisional vote; it was decided that the Committee would meet again on June 18, 12 Noon to bring this project to a vote.

A motion was made by Chairman Rappold, seconded by Mr. O'Donnell, to table the Lewiston Plateau Dog Park /Nature Preserve project until June 18, 2010 at 12:00 p.m. when the Committee will meet again to vote on the project; with the condition that the information regarding the study boundary be provided to the Greenway Commission prior to the June 18th meeting.

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

5.1.3 Sanborn Area Historical Society Improvement (\$260,000)

Mr. Rotella explained that this project is to include the construction of a 5,000 s.f. building, installation of utilities, drainage to provide a space for educational assemblies, festival and display area, as well as a welcome center. On May 18, 2010 the Greenway Commission found the project consistent with their parameters. This project will be an entrance into the wine trail, a connection between the upper and lower Niagara River, Lake Ontario and the Seaway Trail.

Mr. Widger stated that the project is consistent with the requirements of the Host Communities Standing Committee.

Mr. O'Donnell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Daly, to approve the request for funding in the amount of \$260,000 for the Sanborn Area Historical Society Improvement project.

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.

5.1.4 Sanborn "Main Street" Streetscape Improvement (\$323,799)

Mr. Rotella explained that this project includes the installation of 7500 linear feet of sidewalks, restoration of landscape and additional amenities including park benches, trash cans, and flower pots to beautify the area. On May 18, 2010 the Greenway Commission found this project consistent with their guidelines. The area is very important to the Town of Lewiston as it is the crossroads between the upper and lower Niagara River, Lake Ontario Seaway Trail, as well as centrally located on the Niagara Wine Trail. This is a capital improvement project.

Mr. Widger agreed that this project is consistent with the requirements of the Host Communities Standing Committee.

5.0 Project Presentations

5.1 Town of Lewiston

5.1.4 Sanborn "Main Street" Streetscape Improvement (\$323,799) Continued...

Ms. Bianco made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ross, to approve the request for funding in the amount of \$323,799 for the Sanborn "Main Street" Streetscape Improvement project.

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.

6.0 Greenway Update

6.1 Minutes of Niagara River Greenway Commission Meetings

Mr. Ferraro indicated that his Staff continues to monitor the Greenway meetings and to provide minutes of the meetings as they take place. He asked that the members note the map and table that are attached to the May 4th minutes, which incorporates all the projects that have been approved thus far. Mr. Daly stated that the map and chart is exclusive to the Commission's actions, not committee actions, meaning that if the Committee opted to fund a project that the Commission did not find consistent it will not appear on the map or report.

Attached are the minutes for the following meetings:

- **March 16, 2010 – NRGC Meeting**
- **May 4, 2010 – NRGC Citizen's Advisory Committee**
- **May 5, 2010 – NRGC Local Government Advisory Board**
- **May 18, 2010 – NRGC Meeting**

7.0 New Business – None.

8.0 Next HCSC Meeting: Friday, June 18, 2010 – 12 Noon

9.0 Adjournment

Mr. O'Donnell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ross, to recess the meeting until June 18, 2010 at 12:00 noon. The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary P. Melloni
Recording Secretary