

HOST COMMUNITIES STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Friday, June 18, 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
Angelo Massaro, Esq.	Niagara Falls City School District
Tom O’Donnell, Esq. (<i>Arrived 12:23 p.m.</i>)	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.	Town of Niagara
Steve Reiter, Supervisor	Town of Lewiston

Guests:

Tom Burgasser, Esq.	Niagara County
Mike Marra	Town of Lewiston
William E. Geiben, Mayor	Village of Lewiston
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

John M. Baird, Treasurer

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 12:10 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 Project Presentations

4.1 Town of Lewiston

4.1.1 Lewiston Plateau Dog Park /Nature Preserve (\$51,500)

Mr. Rotella explained that members have been provided with a letter indicating that the dog park is outside of the project area of another project that the Niagara River Greenway Commission (NRGC) is support; the dog park is located within the property of the Village of Lewiston and excluded from the study in question. The members were provided two maps that show the area itself and where the actual dog park is going to go.

Chairman Rappold allowed three minutes for a citizen to address the members: Michelle Landstrom of Wildlife Niagara stated she is not opposed to the dog park, indicating that she had a clarifying letter from the EDR which she read:

“At the request of our client, Wildlife Niagara, I am writing to clarify any confusion caused by EDR’s previous correspondence of May 14, 2010 and June 4, 2010 referencing Mr. Reiter’s June 7th. As you know, EDR has been retained to develop a restoration plan for the Niagara Gorge Rim. The study area for this project was established during the grant application process and includes the area being considered for the proposed dog park. When we initiated our study it was assumed that this area was under the ownership of the NYPA. This was the understanding upon which our letter of May 14th was based. It was only recently determined that, in fact, the 42-acre park / plateau area is owned by the Village of Lewiston and the Village’s park is within the study area. This new information was the basis of EDR’s letter of June 4th. We regret any confusion our previous correspondence may have caused. It is not our role as a consultant to resolve this disagreement; but if all parties are agreeable, we would include the plateau in our ongoing ecological inventory and have that inventory complete within the next 30 days.”

Ms. Landstrom indicated that her concern with the dog park is not because it is there, it is the fact that the project is not really complete; it does not have an Environmental Impact Statement. She suggested that perhaps Mr. Reiter would consider an alternative location just across the street from the park, which is the same size as the current property. She also suggested that the Committee defer their decision for a year. She stated that their study will give the Committee information to assist them in decision making in the future. She stated that they also sent a letter to Mr. Reiter, apologizing for how this was handled at the NRGC meeting and received no response from him.

Mr. Reiter stated he has yet to see a letter of apology and also has not received the letter from EDR clarifying their first letter. He stated that this was a mistake; the property was not originally to be in the study area because it does not belong to the State, therefore the Village could have stopped them anytime and chose not to. The alternative locations are either owned privately or on a slope that would not allow individuals with disabilities to walk their dogs.

4.0 Project Presentations

4.1 Town of Lewiston

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

Mr. Daly stated that if the fence around the dog park can be removed at any time and the study group can be in and out within 30 days, is there harm in waiting for the 30 days. Mr. Reiter stated that it is more of a timing issue in getting the fence in. Mr. Winkley explained that the Village has taken all the required and necessary steps for the park, residents are asking for the park, and a delay will do nothing to change these circumstances.

Mr. Widger stated that there is nothing at this point that requires a legal opinion; the role of the HCSC is limited more to approving funding and these issues seem to relate to issues that the project sponsor would have to address if they were to be addressed at all. He stated that he feels the members have addressed what is required under the guidelines and the appropriate time period has passed, therefore, the group can go ahead and vote on the project.

A motion was made by Mr. Ross, seconded by Mr. Risman, to approve the Lewiston Plateau Dog Park/Nature Preserve project for funding in the amount of \$51,500.

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>Absent</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.

4.1.2 Village of Lewiston's Historic Piper Law Office Welcome Center (\$54,000)

Mayor Geiben of the Village of Lewiston thanked the Town of Lewiston for sponsoring this project. He explained that this project is essential to the Village of Lewiston for economic development and for tourist attraction, with an information center right in Academy Park as you enter the Village of Lewiston. Their expenses came in much higher than anticipated and they have had to look for additional funding; therefore would appreciate the support of the Host Communities Standing Committee in their application for Greenway funds. Mr. Rotella explained that the project was submitted to the Greenway Commission and determined to be consistent on May 18, 2010.

4.0 Project Presentations

4.1 Town of Lewiston

4.1.2 Village of Lewiston's Historic Piper Law Office Welcome Center (\$54,000) Continued...

A motion was made by Mr. Reiter, seconded by Mr. Risman, to approve the Village of Lewiston's Historic Piper Law Office Welcome Center project for funding in the amount of \$54,000.

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.

4.1.3 Town of Porter: Porter on the Lake Recreational Master Plan (\$20,000)

Mr. Rotella stated that the Town of Porter put in a request for Greenway Funds approximately one year ago for a recreational master plan for Porter on the Lake. They purchased the Oxy on the Lake property and it is the Town's only park. The park was in bad shape and there is a committee of citizens who are dedicated to trying to restore and clean up the property to get it as functional as possible. They have about 40 people on this committee and they have done an amazing job. However, before they spend more money on the park they would like to figure out what should go where, drainage, what to do with the lakefront property, etc. Therefore they are asking for \$20,000 to hire a consultant to put together a plan for this park.

Mr. Massaro made a motion, seconded by Mr. O'Donnell to approve the request for funding in the amount of \$20,000 for the Porter on the Lake Recreational Master Plan project.

4.0 Project Presentations

4.1 Town of Lewiston

4.1.3 Town of Porter: Porter on the Lake Recreational Master Plan (\$20,000)

It was noted that the project was approved by the NRCG in March of 2009.

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 New Business – None.

6.0 Next HCSC Meeting: TBD

7.0 Adjournment

Mr. Massaro made a motion, seconded by Mr. O'Donnell, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary P. Melloni
Recording Secretary