

**Minutes
Niagara River Greenway
State Park Standing Committee 20th Meeting
January 12, 2022 – 11:00 AM
DeVeaux Woods State Park
Room 104**

Attendees

Mark Mistretta, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Lou Paonessa, New York Power Authority

Introduction and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Mark Mistretta called the meeting to order at 11:05 am. Lou Paonessa moved to have the minutes from the February 4, 2020 meeting approved; Mark Mistretta seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment on Agenda Item

Niagara River Greenway Executive Director Gregory Stevens inquired about a source of minimal funding to supplement municipality work along the lower Niagara trails in Spring 2022. Mark Mistretta and Western Capital District Manager John Honan will request Parks trail coordinator Melissa Melnik to help coordinate Greenway planning.

Funding Request

The following project was deemed consistent with the Niagara River Greenway Plan as determined by the Niagara River Greenway Commission:

Gorge Crew Payroll and Supplies Support for the 2022/2023 seasons combined:

FUNDING REQUEST.....\$370,000.00

Park Operations Manager Ron Peters reported this request is for ongoing trail improvements throughout the Gorge. Lou Paonessa noted the nature of the location of these projects is capital work and required to keep these trails in existence and usable. Ron Peters noted the project cost request represents an increase over the previous two-year \$350,000 funding due to rising payroll and material costs.

- o Requesting NYS Parks Greenway funding be approved for the project.
- o Lou Paonessa motioned to approve NYS Parks Greenway funding for the project.
Seconded by Mark Mistretta. The vote was unanimous.

Lou Paonessa – approve Mark Mistretta – approve

General Discussion:

Parks and NYPA will perform a review of all the projects in the roll-up for discussion and action at the next Committee meeting.

Meeting Dates

Lou Paonessa moved to approve 2022 meeting dates dependent on action items and/or project needs; Mark Mistretta seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

- Wednesday, January 12, 2022 - 11:00 am – DeVeaux Woods State Park Room 104
- Wednesday, May 11, 2022 - 11:00 am – DeVeaux Woods State Park Room 104
- Wednesday, August 3, 2022 – 11:00 am – DeVeaux Woods State Park Room 104
- Wednesday, December 7, 2022 – 11:00 am – DeVeaux Woods State Park Room 104

New Business

Mark Mistretta noted recognition of the 15-year anniversary of the Niagara River Greenway Commission will involve Commission staff working on a series of celebrations with support from the New York State Parks, the New York Power Authority and the Greenway Commission Standing Committees.

Adjournment

Mark Mistretta motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lou Paonessa. The meeting adjourned at 11:33 am.