

**HOST COMMUNITIES
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, November 16, 2021 – 12:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting**

Representatives Present:

Lee Wallace, Supervisor, CHAIRPERSON	Town of Niagara
Mark Laurrie, Superintendent	Niagara Falls City School District
Paul Casseri, Superintendent	Lewiston Porter School District
Lou Paonessa	New York Power Authority
Tom Burgasser, Esq.	Niagara County
Scott Hapeman, Esq.	Niagara Wheatfield School District
Steve Broderick, Supervisor	Town of Lewiston
Robert Restaino, Mayor	City of Niagara Falls

Alternates/Guests:

Ben Bidell	Niagara County Dept of Economic Dev
Jacqueline Siegmann	Town of Niagara
Terry Duffy	Tribune
Chuck Bell	Riviera Theatre Expansion

Staff Present:

Mary Melloni, Recording Secretary
Stan Widger, Esq., NPC Counsel, Nixon Peabody – Via Teleconference

1.0 Call to Order

Chairperson Wallace called the Host Communities Standing Committee meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

2.0 Roll Call

Ms. Melloni called the roll.

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance

4.0 Introductions

5.0 Approval of Meeting Minutes of September 21, 2021

Mr. Laurrie made a motion, seconded by Mayor Restaino, to approve the meeting minutes of September 21, 2021. Motion passed.

6.0 Town of Lewiston

**6.1 Pletcher Road Park Playground – Steve Broderick
(Determined Consistent by NRG on 5/11/21; approved for funding in the amount of \$550,000 by HCSC on 5/18/21; Requesting additional funding in the amount of \$15,531.37)**

Mr. Broderick stated that at Pletcher Road Park Playground they were going to utilize the old existing swing set; however, it is inadequate, insufficient and needs to be replaced. The Town is requesting an additional \$15,531.37 for a new swing set.

6.0 Town of Lewiston

6.1 Pletcher Road Park Playground – Steve Broderick, Supervisor (Con’t)

Mr. Widger stated that this project meets all procedural requirements. A motion was made by Mayor Restaino and seconded by Mr. Burgasser, to approve the additional funding of the Pletcher Road Park Playground in the amount of \$15, 531.37.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

The resolution was thereupon approved.

**6.2 Sanborn Park Playground – Steve Broderick
(Determined Consistent by NRG on 5/11/21; approved for funding in the amount of \$100,000 by HCSC on 5/18/21; Requesting additional funding in the amount of \$91,250.00)**

Mr. Broderick explained that when the Sanborn Park Playground was originally approved, they were going to install wood chips. Mr. Broderick was contacted by the Sanborn Firehall and they expressed that they did not want wood chips. They saw that Pletcher Road had a poured rubber base and the Company agreed to reduce their price for the Sanborn Park surface, so it was decided to go with the rubber base.

Mr. Widger stated that this project meets all procedural requirements. A motion was made by Mayor Restaino and seconded by Mr. Casseri, to approve the additional funding of the Sanborn Park Playground in the amount of \$91, 250.00.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

The resolution was thereupon approved.

7.0 Niagara County

7.1 Riviera Theatre – Phase 3 – Chuck Bell (Determined Consistent by NRGC on 7/21/2015; Approved for funding in the amount of \$50,000 by HCSC on 12/1/2015; Requesting additional funding for Phase 3 in the amount of \$175,000)

Mr. Bell explained that this is an expansion that has been ongoing for quite some time and previously benefitted from Greenway funds in order to get to the point they are at now. They have purchased the building immediately adjacent to the theatre to allow for an expansion on Webster Street in North Tonawanda. The goal is to add badly needed restrooms, modernize the ticketing and box office area, and add a significant concession and bar area that will improve the ability to capture revenues, that are currently handled on a contractual basis. They are putting forward a development plan that is approximately \$2 million currently, working to finalize the concept budget and this request is funding to help move that forward to get to a construction budget so they can then pull in the foundation and NYS money that rounds out the project.

Mr. Widger stated that this project meets all procedural requirements. A motion was made by Mayor Restaino and seconded by Mr. Burgasser, to approve the additional funding of the Pletcher Road Park Playground in the amount of \$15, 531.37.

Mr. Widger stated that this project meets all procedural requirements. A motion was made by Mr. Burgasser and seconded by Mr. Laurrie, to approve the funding for Phase 3 of the Riviera Theatre project in the amount of \$175, 000.00.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

The resolution was thereupon approved.

8.0 Any other Matters

Mr. Broderick stated that there was a discussion at the Niagara River Greenway Commission about projects should be considered for a consultation and not a consistency. Mr. Paonessa stated that any time a project comes to the HCSC, the Greenway Commission should provide their opinion to the HCSC and the HCSC can take it from there. Mr. Broderick stated that as a Commissioner on the NRG, when a Niagara County project came up and there wasn't a good feeling about it, one of the Commissioners talked about the consistency findings and was it really necessary for the Commission to vote on consistency or not since all it says is that we bring it to the NRG and they give their opinion on how to make the project better and it satisfies the consultation requirement with the Greenway Commission. They note that the Commission gives their opinion that a project is not consistent, but when the project comes to the HCSC they can vote in favor of it. So they are looking at changing their approach with some of the HCSC projects.

Mr. Laurrie stated that they had a project that fit that scenario; however, he stated it is their project and their money and they are consistent in their mind. Mr. Burgasser stated that our protocols state that the projects only need to go to NRGC for consultation. Also, he stated that Lewiston Porter School District, the Greenway plan actually specifies that if you are away from the river you actually can set your own priorities. A discussion continued.

Mr. Burgasser stated that he has notes/minutes from prior NRGC discussions and specifically the minutes of the Greenway Commission indicate that they changed it from a priority area to a focus area specifically so that the focus area was only elevated and not given a priority. He sent copies of those minutes to the NRGC. Anything that enhances the trails or within the Greenway boundaries or enhances going towards the river such as Lewiston Porter, Niagara Wheatfield, the Greenway minutes indicate that they could be consistent.

Mr. Paonessa stated that NYPA is always going to vote and determine consistency based on the Settelement agreements and most members understand how that is spelled out. He stated that the NRGC has to advocate for a certain set of principles and vision of the Greenway, and it may not always align with what the HCSC wants to do but that is their job, just as the HCSC can advocate their priorities for their monies.

Mr. Burgasser indicated that Niagara County will be hearing two more projects this evening and he asked if a special meeting could be held prior to January. It was agreed that a special Zoom meeting could be scheduled prior to the January meeting.

9.0 Next Meeting: January 18, 2021 – 12:00 p.m.

10.0 Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Restaino. Meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary P. Melloni

Mary P. Melloni
Recording Secretary