

**HOST COMMUNITIES  
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, June 14, 2022 – 12:00 p.m.  
Town of Niagara Community Center  
7000 Lockport Road, Niagara Falls NY**

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**Representatives Present:**

Lee Wallace, Supervisor, CHAIRPERSON	Town of Niagara
Mark Laurrie	Niagara Falls City School District
Paul Casseri, Superintendent	Lewiston Porter School District
Lou Paonessa (via teleconference)	New York Power Authority
Rebecca Wydysh	Niagara County
Scott Hapeman, Esq.	Niagara Wheatfield School District
Steve Broderick, Supervisor	Town of Lewiston
Robert M. Restaino, Mayor, VICE CHAIRPERSON	City of Niagara Falls

**Alternates/Guests:**

Jackie Siegmann	Town of Niagara
Brian Michel	NCCC Veterans Memorial
Joe Potalivo	NCCC Veterans Memorial
Deb Brewer	NCCC Veterans Memorial
Dr. Murabito	NCCC Veterans Memorial
Walter Garrow	Wheatfield Lions Club
William Ross	Wheatfield Lions Club

**Staff Present:**

Mary Melloni, Recording Secretary  
Stan Widger, Esq., NPC Counsel, Nixon Peabody (via teleconference)

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**1.0 Call to Order**

Chairperson Wallace called the Host Communities Standing Committee meeting to order at 12:20 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 March 15, 2022 Meeting**

Mr. Casseri made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hapeman, to approve the meeting minutes of March 15, 2022. Motion carried.

**6.0 Niagara County**

**6.1 Wheatfield Lions Nature Trail & Fishing Pond Project – *Walter Garrow, President, Wheatfield Lions Club*  
**(Consultation completed by NRCG on 3/8/2022; Approved for funding in the amount of \$115,000 by Niagara County on 5/17/2022)****

Mr. Ross gave a brief background on the Lions Clubs, explaining that it is the largest service organization in the world. He stated that the Town of Wheatfield Lions club was chartered 49 years ago with a diverse membership. Over the years it has grown and in 1987 they purchased 13 acres of land for \$20,000 on Ward Road (Route 429). Through a series of grants they were able to build their clubhouse and pavilion. Mr. Ross introduced Walt Garrow, President of the Wheatfield Lions Club and co-sponsor of this project.

## 6.0 Niagara County

### 6.1 **Wheatfield Lions Nature Trail & Fishing Pond Project – Walter Garrow, President, Wheatfield Lions Club (Con't...)**

Mr. Garrow stated that the park is beautiful and they have done a lot of work to improve it over the years with landscaping, painting, etc. However, their major clientele is the blind, handicapped, and disabled individuals needing assistance in various ways. It is easy to get into the pavilion and the clubhouse; however, one of their features is the pond. Crossing the grass with walkers and wheelchairs is very difficult, and the main goal is inclusion. He explained that they are looking to install safety fencing and rails. They will add a dock/platform to help the blind have access, fish, and experience being by the water safely. They will add a functional safety path to allow/assist the blind to experience a nature walk. They will also add a fountain to the pond, which to the blind will sound refreshing along with the sound of the leaves in the trees. Being a Five Senses park, they want to play as much to the senses as possible. Mr. Garrow explained that the Greenway Commission had some questions about the pond and their concerns about getting the pond eco-friendly in a very short period of time. He explained that the pond has been there over 30 years so it is stocked with fish, it is deep enough, there are frogs, turtles and it is self-surviving. The Commission was very satisfied with his explanation. They are going to install some play equipment for blind, handicapped and disabled children that will accommodate wheelchairs. He explained that the main purpose of the project is inclusion.

Mr. Ross stated that they have decided that since Route 31 and 429 are now bike route paths, they are going to set up an area on Saturday and Sunday mornings where they can refresh, use the restroom facilities. There will be a bike rack and picnic tables to sit at. The Lions Club will sponsor this portion of the project.

Mr. Widger stated that the project meets procedural requirements.

Mr. Laurrie made a motion to approve the Wheatfield Lions Nature Trail & Fishing Pond Project in the amount of \$115,000. Mr. Broderick seconded the motion.

***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.***

## 6.0 Niagara County

### 6.2 **NCCC Veterans Memorial Park Project – Deb Brewer, Director, NCCC Foundation (Consultation Completed by NRCG on 3/8/2022; Approved for funding in the amount of \$100,000 by Niagara County on 5/17/2022)**

Dr. Murabito explained that the campus has a current Veterans Memorial Park that they have found over the years to be inadequate. It is not usable and not to the scale that is deserving to the Veterans of Niagara County. The team has put together a project to put in a new memorial park. Once the memorial park is completed, they will put a memorial display at their branch campus in the City of Niagara Falls to celebrate the memorial and the history of veterans in the military of Niagara County.

Their current memorial is located just off Route 31 which is overgrown by trees and there is a drainage issue which contributes to it being inaccessible to those who are wheelchair bound or dependent on assistance. This is important to NCCC because those who helped build this monument now rely on accessibility to reach the site. The site is historic and has electricity, however, being inaccessible alone outweighs the value of keeping the existing site and renovating it. On their front lawn, in front of Lot 3, they have a beautiful grassy knoll where they would like to relocate their small monument into a proper memorial park. Highlights of that location is that it is well-drained, has parking readily available, is electrified, is very accessible and most important of all, prominent on the campus.

He explained that they had some great constructive feedback from the Niagara River Greenway Commission which helped them develop their proposal even further. They have trail prioritization and ecological restoration. They will not have to cut down or move any trees, which was important to the Greenway Commission. The college is located within a trail corridor, and although the college is not on a waterfront, it can be reasonably inferred and understood that this monument is an asset to the entire County and the residents who reside along the water. Anyone who is affiliated with the college or a resident of the County is encouraged to place the name of a loved one on the memorial to be remembered. By relocating the monument, NCCC is protecting and preserving the existing habitat that they have on campus.

Ms. Brewer stated that Dr. Mirabito is a veteran who has been very, very generous in his sponsorship of three flagpoles. She stated that Joe Potalivo is a three-tour veteran, and their Veterans Coordinator who aligns with the veterans. They have raised over \$110,000 for this project.

Mr. Paonessa stated that the projects before the Board today were evaluated as is required by our protocols by the Niagara River Greenway Commission. The consultation was completed on March 8, 2022, but the Commission did not take a stance that would say that these were considered consistent. The official word of the Commission was “consultation completed,” so to say that they received a vote of consistency, that did not happen. They declined to vote. Mr. Broderick stated that it meets the legal criteria.

Mr. Widger stated that the project meets procedural requirements.

**6.0 Niagara County**

**6.2 NCCC Veterans Memorial Park Project – Deb Brewer, Director, NCCC Foundation**

Mayor Restaino made a motion to approve the NCCC Veterans Memorial Park Project in the amount of \$100,000. Mr. Laurrie seconded the motion.

***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 Any other Matters**

**8.0 Next Meeting: September 13, 2022**

**9.0 Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Restaino, seconded by Mr. Laurrie. Meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary P. Melloni*

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Mary P. Melloni  
Recording Secretary