

**HOST COMMUNITIES
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 19, 2021 – 12:00 p.m.
Via Zoom**

Representatives Present:

Lee Wallace, Supervisor, CHAIRPERSON	Town of Niagara
Angelo Massaro, Esq.	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 M. Restaino, Mayor, VICE CHAIRPERSON	City of Niagara Falls

Alternates/Guests:

Tom Kontak	Wheatfields Veteran's Memorial
Connie Minor	Wheatfields Veteran's Memorial
Gary Siddall	Whirlpool Commons Plaza

Staff Present:

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

1.0 Call to Order

Vice Chairperson Wallace called the Host Communities Standing Committee meeting to order at 12:05 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 15, 2020 Meeting

Mr. Hapeman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Casseri, to approve the meeting minutes of September 15, 2020. Motion passed.

6.0 Niagara County

**6.1 *Wheatfield Veterans' Memorial – Thomas Kontak/Connie Minor*
(Approved for funding in the amount of \$100,000 by Niagara County on August 4, 2020; Determined Inconsistent by NRCG on 11/10/20)**

Ms. Minor explained that the Wheatfield Veterans Memorial project will construct a 7,800 square foot paved walkway and display area for the Town's recently-restored Huey helicopter, tank and Veterans Memorial monument honoring all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. Improvements will include new flagpoles, landscaping, benches and lighting. The existing site is in disrepair, has no designated parking and is not ADA-compliant.

6.1 Wheatfield Veterans' Memorial *(Continued...)*

The Niagara River Greenway Commission has suggested that the Town consider a connecting lane or trail from the Veterans Memorial site to the NYS bike route on Niagara Falls Boulevard (Route 62). However, Wheatfield Veterans Memorial is not a municipality and therefore cannot construct a trail on municipal property. Since the Town feels that a connection would benefit access to the Town's municipal complex and the memorial site, they will take the appropriate steps to commence a study for such a lane or trail. This study will be presented to the Town Board/Council upon completion for consideration.

Mr. Burgasser explained that although the Commission feels it is not in the focus area, it is in the Greenway itself which includes 175 feet to Ward Road. The Town of Wheatfield Board will do its due diligence regarding the connection as required by the Niagara River Greenway Commission.

Mr. Widger stated that this project meets all procedural requirements. A motion was made by Mr. Burgasser, seconded by Mr. Broderick, to approve funding in the amount of \$100,000 for the Wheatfield Veterans Memorial project.

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 City of Niagara Falls

7.1 Whirlpool Commons Plaza - Gary Siddall, President/CEO Aquarium of Niagara
(Approved for funding in the amount of \$250,000 by City of Niagara Falls on December 9, 2020; Determined Consistent by NRGCC on 11/10/20)

Mr. Siddall explained that the Aquarium is proposing to create an interpretive/programmable outdoor space along the Shoreline trail that will connect visitors and residents to the region's ecological assets and the Aquarium's existing space. This will create both indoor and outdoor learning spaces as the region/State deals with COVID-19 accommodations. The plaza space will be the hub for ecological tours, hikes and programming focused on the region's natural resources and promotion of Fredrick Law Olmstead's legacy. The Aquarium will also partner with educational and outdoor recreational partners.

7.1 Whirlpool Commons Plaza (Continued...)

Mr. Widger stated that this project meets all procedural requirements. A motion was made by Mr. Massaro, seconded by Mr. Burgasser, to approve funding in the amount of \$250,000 for the Whirlpool Commons Plaza project.

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

Chairperson Wallace stated that in moving forward, when it is feasible to meet in person again, he would like to suggest moving the location of the meetings from the Niagara County Economic Development Center to the Town of Niagara Community Center. There would be no fees associated with this venue. When physical meetings are again allowed, this will be brought to the boards attention for consideration.

9.0 Next Meeting: March 16, 2021

10.0 Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Massaro, seconded by Mr. Paonessa. Meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary P. Melloni

Mary P. Melloni
Recording Secretary