

**HOST COMMUNITIES  
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, May 18, 2021 – 12:00 p.m.  
Town of Niagara Community Center – Veterans Memorial Park**

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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	New York Power Authority
Tom Burgasser, Esq.	Niagara County
Scott Hapeman, Esq.	Niagara Wheatfield School District
Steve Broderick, Supervisor	Town of Lewiston
Douglas Janese	City of Niagara Falls

**Alternates/Guests:**

Susan Geissler	Lkpt Locks Lock Tenders
Peter Henderson	Lkpt Locks Lock Tenders
David Kinyon	Lkpt Locks Lock Tenders
Bruce Smith	Lkpt Locks Lock Tenders
Bernie Rotella	Youngstown Water Street Shoreline
Alex Domaradzki	Gratwick Riverside Park
Mike Dashineau	Pletcher Rd & Sanborn Park
Ben Bidell	Niagara County Dept of Economic Dev
Jacqueline Siegmann	Town of Niagara

**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 16, 2021 Meeting**

Mr. Laurrie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hapeman, to approve the meeting minutes of March 16, 2021. Motion passed.

**6.0 Niagara County**

**6.1 Lockport Locks Lock Tenders Tribute – Dave Kinyon  
(Determined Consistent by NRCG on 11/15/2016; Approved for additional funding in the amount of \$100,000 by Niagara County on 3/23/2021)**

Mr. Kinyon introduced Brian Smith, Susan Geisler and Peter Henderson. He explained that they were able to install Phase I of the Lock Tenders Tribute last July and they look forward to installing the next 5 figures from Phase II of the project. Their objective is to complete their fundraising efforts and install Phase III, the final six figures of the Lock Tenders in 2022. The purpose in requesting additional funding from Niagara County and the Greenway fund is because in the process they have incurred another \$200,000 in unanticipated expenses. Niagara County has approved funding in the amount of \$100,000.

## 6.0 Niagara County

### 6.1 Lockport Locks Lock Tenders Tribute (Con't)

Mr. Widger stated that this project meets all procedural requirements. A motion was made by Mr. Burgasser, seconded by Mr. Casseri, to approve funding in the amount of \$100,000 for the Lockport Locks Lock Tenders Tribute 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.***

### 6.2 Gratwick Riverside Park Improvements – Phase I – Alex Domaradzki (Determined Consistent by NRGC on 9/10/2019; HCSC approved funding in the amount of \$316,000 on 10/8/19; Requested a re-phase of the project and was approved for funding in the amount of \$268,417.36 by Niagara County on 3/23/2021)

Mr. Domaradzki explained that in 2019 the initial project was for the installation of two pavilions and two portable restroom trailers. Due to Covid they did not go out to bid in 2020, therefore when they did go out to bid prices increased and it was out of the scope for their project. They are requesting a rephase of the project to cover the cost of one pavilion, a single portable restroom, picnic tables and signage. Therefore, they are requesting \$268,417.36 of the original \$316,000 that was granted in 2019 for Phase I of this project. Mr. Burgasser explained that the County will be returning the balance of \$47,582.64 to the County's Greenway fund account.

Mr. Widger stated that this project meets all procedural requirements. A motion was made by Mr. Burgasser, seconded by Mr. Janese, to approve funding in the amount of \$268,417.36 for the Gratwick Riverside Park Improvements 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.***

**6.0 Niagara County**

**6.3 Youngstown Water Street Shoreline Stabilization and Mitigation – B. Rotella  
(Determined Consistent by NRCG on 1/19/2016; Approved for funding in the amount of \$10,000 by Niagara County on 3/23/2021)**

Mr. Rotella stated that this is a significant project. Youngstown received a grant in the amount of \$1.9 million from the NYS Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative that assists with flood mitigation, which is 95% of the total project cost. The Town must now provide the remaining 5% (\$105,150) and currently has \$95,150 allocated. They are requesting the additional \$10,000 in Greenway funds to close the gap.

Mr. Widger stated that this project meets all procedural requirements. A motion was made by Mr. Burgasser, seconded by Mr. Hapeman, to approve funding in the amount of \$10,000 for the Youngstown Water Street Shoreline Stabilization and Mitigation 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 Town of Lewiston**

**7.1 Pletcher Road Playground – S. Broderick/M. Dashineau  
(Approved for funding in the amount of \$550,000 by Town of Lewiston on 2/8/2021;  
Determined Consistent by NRCG on 5/11/2021)**

Mr. Dashineau explained that Pletcher Road Park is located adjacent to the Niagara River. It is one of several town-owned parks that the Town maintains. The park will soon connect directly to the Niagara River through construction of the Lewiston Waterfront Park and connects directly via bike path and trail to Kiwanis and Toohey Parks in the Village of Lewiston. The new playground will replace the existing playground that was constructed in 1998 and will increase the size of its structures and playable area. The design will be a woods and river theme. The final design will include signage as requested by Niagara River Greenway Commission. They will go back to committee regarding the signage and what they will include. The parks are also home to the Town's baseball and softball tournaments, instructional soccer, outdoor lacrosse and supervised playground activities.

Mr. Paonessa stated that he noted some changes made due to suggestions from the Greenway Commission, including celebrating the theme of the river area and the signage information.

**7.0 Town of Lewiston**

**7.1 Pletcher Road Playground (Con't)**

Mr. Widger stated that this project meets all procedural requirements. A motion was made by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Laurrie, to approve funding in the amount of \$550,000 for the Pletcher Road Playground 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.***

**7.2 Sanborn Park Playground Replacement – S. Broderick/M. Dashineau  
(Approved for funding in the amount of \$100,000 by Town of Lewiston on 3/6/2021;  
Determined Consistent by NRCG on 5/11/2021)**

Mr. Dashineau explained that the Sanborn Park is located less than 6 miles from the NYS Power Authority Water Reservoir on Route 31, adjacent to the Sanborn Fire Company. It is an important location for both the fire company functions as well as for community use. Mr. Dashineau went into detail describing how the Park connects with other parks in the area. This is a basic concept/project for replacing the current playground. It will include upgraded safety features and state of the art design expected of a 2021 playground.

Mr. Widger stated that this project meets all procedural requirements. A motion was made by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Casseri, to approve funding in the amount of \$100,000 for the Sanborn Park Playground Replacement 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**

**9.0 Next Meeting: September 21, 2021**

**10.0 Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Janese, seconded by Mr. Paonessa. Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary P. Melloni*

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Mary P. Melloni  
Recording Secretary