

**HOST COMMUNITIES
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 17, 2024 – 12:00 p.m.
Town of Niagara Community Center
7000 Lockport Road, Niagara Falls NY**

Representatives Present:

Lee Wallace, Supervisor, CHAIRPERSON
Mark Laurrie
Paul Casseri, Superintendent
Lou Paonessa
Thomas Burgasser, Esq.
Scott Hapeman, Esq.
Steve Broderick, Supervisor
Robert M. Restaino, Mayor, VICE CHAIRPERSON

Town of Niagara
Niagara Falls City School District
Lewiston Porter School District
New York Power Authority
Niagara County
Niagara Wheatfield School District
Town of Lewiston
City of Niagara Falls

Alternates/Guests:

Jackie Siegmann, Treasurer
Nathaniel Bonfede
Raphaelle Proefrock
Caitlin Clark
Margaret Zaepfel

Town of Niagara
NCCED
Carousel Society of Niagara Frontier
Town of Hartland
Town of Hartland

Staff Present:

Mary Melloni, Secretary

1.0 Call to Order

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 June 18, 2024 Meeting

Mr. Laurrie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Casseri, to approve the meeting minutes of June 18, 2024. Motion carried.

6.0 Niagara County

6.1 **Town of Hartland Enhanced Recreational Access & Connections – Margaret Zaepfel, Supervisor, Town of Hartland** **(Approved for funding in the amount of \$180,000 by Niagara County on June 18, 2024; Consultation with NRCG on March 12, 2024)**

This project is to improve public access by enhancing several assets of the Town's only recreational park to include enhancements of inclusive playground equipment, connecting walkways, a centrally located pavilion, and increased ADA-compliant parking. There will also be Greenway and wayfinding signage throughout the park.

The park is situated directly across from the Town Hall and behind the Fire Department. The park is approximately 5 acres. When questioned as to why the NRCG found the project inconsistent, Mr. Burgasser pointed out that a memorandum (which will be attached to these minutes) was prepared and submitted to the Commission addressing their concerns and explaining that the park is directly on the wine trail and the entire town is in the Canal Heritage way. Mr. Broderick who sits on the Commission also stated he supports the project. Mr. Paonessa stated that the Commission interprets it much stricter than what the settlement agreements did. The Commission has the right to try and shape it as best as a collective body see fit and they want to encourage parties to move to the focus area. He stated that Niagara County is well within its rights to fund projects as described in the application.

Mayor Restaino made a motion, seconded by Mr. Burgasser, to approve the project as presented.

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 **Carousel Society Music Room – Raphaelle A. Proefrock, CSNF President** **(Consultation with NRCG on January 17, 2017; Approved for funding by the HCSC on August 1, 2017 in the amount of \$110,000; Request for additional funding in the amount of \$170,000 approved by Niagara County on June 18, 2024)**

Ms. Proefrock stated that the Carousel Society has owned the Carousel factory building since 1972 and has been working to restore the entire complex. This is the very last portion of the complex. It will be a 1500 square foot wood structure 12 to 15 feet high that will hold an exhibit of their extensive collection of band organs (musical chains that make music for a carousel). This is to put all the band organs into one space where they can interpret the history, describe the machines. It will also include a demonstration of the roll making equipment that is not produced anywhere else in the world.

6.0 Niagara County

6.2 Carousel Society Music Room – *Raphaëlle A. Proefrock, CSNF President (Con't.)*

A motion was made by Mr. Hapeman and seconded by Mr. Burgasser to approve funding in the amount of \$110,000 for the Carousel Society Music Room 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 HCSC Annual Report to NYPA – *L. Wallace*

Chairperson Wallace stated that the Annual Report to NYPA is attached for members to review. There were no questions. This report will be provided to NYPA as required.

8.0 Any other Matters – there were no other matters to be discussed.

9.0 Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 19, 2024

10.0 Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Restaino, seconded by Mr. Laurrie. Meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary P. Melloni
Recording Secretary