

**HOST COMMUNITIES
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, December 8, 2021 – 1:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting**

Representatives Present:

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

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:

Ben Bidell
Bernie Rotella
Robert Emerson
Alex Domaradzki

Niagara County Dept of Economic Dev
Old Fort Niagara
Old Fort Niagara
Gratwick Riverside Park Improvements

Staff Present:

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

1.0 Call to Order

Chairperson Wallace called the Host Communities Standing Committee meeting to order at 1:10 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 November 16, 2021

Mr. Laurrie made a motion, seconded by Mayor Restaino, to approve the meeting minutes of November 16, 2021. Motion passed.

6.0 Niagara County

**6.1 Old Fort Niagara Historic Structures Preservation – B. Rotella
(Determined Consistent by NRG on 9/8/2021; Funding approved by Niagara County in the amount of \$75,000 on 11/16/2021)**

Mr. Rotella introduced Robert Emerson, Executive Director of the Old Fort Niagara Historic Preservation Association. Mr. Emerson explained that there are three historic buildings at the fort that are in dire need of masonry restoration: The French Castel (1726); the South Redoubt (built 1770); and North Redoubt (1771). The buildings have significant mortar cracks and losses and are currently evident in over 48% of the exterior surface area of the South Redoubt and over 26% of the North Redoubt. There are also mortar losses and cracks in the buildings' interiors. Masonry deterioration is also evident in the French Castle, as stones are falling out of chimneys. The defects worsen yearly and threaten the structural integrity of the structures.

6.0 Niagara County

6.1 Old Fort Niagara Historic Structures Preservation (Con't...)

In addition to the historical, educational and cultural value of these stone, three-story buildings, they are also prime attractions at Old Fort Niagara with over 200,000 visitors from throughout the world annually. If not repaired the community will lose a vital educational and economic resource.

Mayor Restaino asked if doing the repairs will allow preservation of the historical appearance of the buildings. Mr. Emerson explained that the company that is doing the restoration has done restorations in the past and it does not disturb the historic nature of the buildings.

Mr. Widger stated that this project meets all procedural requirements. A motion was made by Mr. Casseri and seconded by Mr. Burgasser, to approve the funding of the Old Fort Niagara Historic Structures Preservation project in the amount of \$75,000.

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 2 – A. Domaradzki (Determined Consistent by NRGC on 9/10/2019; Approved for funding in the amount of \$316,000 by HCSC on 10/8/2019; Rephased project for \$268,417.36, returned \$47,582.64 to Niagara County - approved by HCSC on 5/18/2021; Niagara County approved additional funding for Phase 2 on 11/16/2021 in the amount of \$100,000)

Mr. Domaradzki explained that Phase 2 of the Gratwick Riverside Park Improvements project will include the addition of one 30-foot by 60-foot by 10-foot pavilion to the southeast end of the park. The will provide additional areas for social and event gatherings, together with a 30-foot ADA portable restroom trailer which will be accessible to fishermen, bicyclists, soccer and lacrosse players, as well as spectators and participants using the pavilion for parties and events.

6.2 Gratwick Riverside Park Improvements – Phase 2 (Con’t...)

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 additional funding of the Gratwick Riverside Park Improvements project in the amount of \$100,000.00.

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

9.0 Next Meeting: January 18, 2022 – 12:00 p.m.

10.0 Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Laurrie, seconded by Mr. Hapeman. Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary P. Melloni

Mary P. Melloni
Recording Secretary