

Minutes of the Executive Committee
Of the
Niagara River Greenway Commission
Beaver Island State Park
January 16, 2007 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chairman Robert Kresse at 5:45 pm.

Attendees: Robert Kresse, Chair
John Giardino, Commission Member
Paul Leuchner, Commission Member
Paul Dyster, Commission Member
Ron Moline, Commission Member
Dominic Jacangelo, Deputy Commissioner, NYSOPRHP
Matt Balling, for Ron Hayes, NYSDOT
Marcia Kees, NYSOPRHP
Rob Belue, Executive Director
Ed Rutkowski, NYSOPRHP
Ray Goll, NYSOPRHP
Bill Huntoon, NYSOPRHP
Caitlin Campbell, for Senator Mary Lou Rath

Chairman Robert Kresse announced that there was a need for the Executive Committee to meet in Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Accordingly, a motion to enter Executive Session was made by Paul Dyster and seconded by Paul Leuchner. The motion carried unanimously. The motion to end Executive Session was made by Paul Dyster and seconded by Paul Leuchner. The motion carried unanimously and the session ended at 5:58 pm.

A motion was made by Dominic Jacangelo and seconded by Paul Dyster that the Executive Committee empower Chairman Robert Kresse to send a letter to the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) instructing them to place Rob Belue on the NHT payroll effective February 14, 2007 and that funds on deposit from the Niagara River Greenway Commission be used to pay his salary at the current rate and level of compensation and fringe benefits, respectively. The motion carried unanimously and will be referred to the Niagara River Greenway Commission for final action.

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of November 21, 2006 were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Paul Dyster and seconded by Paul Leuchner. To approve the minutes with one correction on page 2, third paragraph, replacing the fourth word "is" with the word "if". The motion carried unanimously.

John Giardino presented a brief quarterly financial report on the 3rd quarter of the fiscal year (see attached). Mr. Giardino noted that no requests for payment from Wendel Duchscherer had been made during that quarter. He also reported that the deficit shown in

Niagara River Greenway Executive Committee Mtg. – January 16, 2007
1st Draft

Tape recordings of this meeting are available for review at the NRG office located at Beaver Island State Park.

the report will be offset by the Quality Communities Grant. A motion to approve the quarterly financial report was made by Paul Leuchner and seconded by Paul Dyster. The motion passed unanimously.

Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) Chairman Ron Moline stated that the focus is now on individual municipal presentations that will bring closure to the LGAC input process. There was discussion regarding the reporting out of non-substantive changes to the plan that are expected to occur as a result of the public comment process. He reported that the Town of Tonawanda is expected to approve the plan at their board meeting on January 22, 2006. No future LGAC meetings have been scheduled.

Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Chairman Paul Dyster reported that there was no need for future meetings of the CAC at this time. He advised that the public should check the NRG website for the schedule of municipality presentations. The protocol for these presentations will vary from municipality to municipality, so anyone planning to attend should contact the respective municipal clerk for information on meeting procedures.

Plan Management Committee (PMC) Chairman John Giardino reported that the PMC will meet on January 26, 2007 to review comments and to make recommendation to the consultant. On February 24, 2007 the PMC expects to deliver the final draft plan with changes to the NRG. The NRG will be expected to decide on the adoption and approval of the plan at the next meeting scheduled for February 20, 2007.

Executive Director Rob Belue urged Commission members to be present at the presentations to the municipalities to show support for the plan. Paul Leuchner stated he would be at most of the presentations.

Dominic Jacangelo announced that Governor Spitzer had nominated Carol Ash for the position of Commissioner, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. He conveyed her best wishes and stated that she is very interested in the Niagara River Greenway. Chairman Robert Kresse asked Dominic Jacangelo to schedule a meeting with Acting Commissioner Ash. Dominic Jacangelo also reported that Paul Dyster added that Andy Beers has been appointed as her Executive Director.

A motion was made by Paul Leuchner and seconded by John Giardino to adjourn the Executive Committee meeting. The motion carried and the meeting concluded at 6:50 pm.