

Minutes of the Executive Committee
Of the
Niagara River Greenway Commission
Beaver Island State Park
November 21, 2006 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chairperson Robert Kresse at 5:03 pm.

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

Minutes for the Executive Committee meeting of October 17, 2006 were reviewed and approved.

Ron Moline presented, Chair of the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) reported that the next LGAC meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2006 at 4:00pm at the Beaver Island State Park Clubhouse. This meeting will serve as an informational session and there will be no public comment.

Paul Dyster, Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) reported that the next meeting of the CAC is scheduled for December 5, 2006 at 7:00pm at the Beaver Island State Park Clubhouse. The meeting will be an information session with opportunity for the public to ask questions and obtain clarification on the draft Niagara River Greenway Plan.

Paul Leuchner reported on behalf of John Giardino the Chairman of the Plan Management Committee (PMC). The PMC met on November 14, 2006, reviewed the draft plan and voted to refer it to the Executive Committee with the recommendation that it be released to the general public for comment by the Niagara River Greenway Commission. A motion was made by Paul Dyster and seconded by Paul Leuchner affirming the recommendation to refer the draft plan to the full Commission. The motion carried. Dominic Jacangelo recognized and thanked the Plan Management Committee and its working group for their work on the draft plan. Paul Leuchner also reported there was a Scope of Services amendment submitted by Wendel Duchscherer that needed approval a motion to approve this change was made by Paul Leuchner and seconded by Ron Moline. The motion carried unanimously. Bob Kresse asked when Wendel Duchscherer contract concluded. Rob Belue responded that the contract would end on March 22, 2007.

The need for a meeting of the Niagara River Greenway Commission during the month of December was discussed. -. The meeting date of December 19, 2006 will be kept open in the event it is found that there is a need to convene.

Dominic Jacangelo reminded the committee of the need for a resolution at the full commission meeting to advance the plan to the Commissioner of New York State Parks so that she can issue the notice of completion, that will initiate the environmental review timetable. He reviewed each item in the proposed resolution and stated once adopted it will be posted on the website. This resolution will become the official action of the Niagara River Greenway Commission accepting the draft plan. Wendel Duchscherer will provide an overview of the plan and following that presentation there will be an opportunity for Commission members to ask questions or make comments. Dominic Jacangelo encouraged all commission members to make a statement about the draft Niagara River Greenway Plan.

Marcia Kees, NYSOPRHP asked if there had been any discussion on how the public hearings were to be handled and suggest that this matter be clarified at the full Commission meeting. Committee members decided that Chairman Kresse should make the opening comments at the public hearings. The members also learned that Tom Lyons, NYSOPRHP will probably be the hearing officer. The public hearings will follow the formal process. Rob Belue noted that the first hearing will be held at the Niagara Falls Conference Center. There will be sign in sheets for anyone wishing to make a comment. Bob Kresse will introduce Mark Mistretta of Wendel Duchscherer who will make a brief presentation and following that presentation Tom Lyons will take over the proceedings. Paul Leuchner asked if there would be a hierarchy of speakers. Marcia Kees responded that this is often done but the decision to do so it up to the Commission. Dominic Jacangelo added that public comment will be accepted through January 17, 2007.

Paul Leuchner requested that generic business cards and names tags be provided for members of the Niagara River Greenway Commission. Chairman Kresse directed Rob Belue to make the necessary arrangements.

The Plan Management Committee suggested that Mayor Soluri and Supervisor Moline of the LGAC personally invite their peers to attend the next LGAC meeting.

Paul Dyster suggested that a standard resolution be prepared for the municipalities to establish consistency and to make it easier to draw up a resolution approving the draft plan. Marcia Kees, NYSOPRHP will send sample resolutions to Rob Belue. Bob Kresse emphasized the importance of getting the various standing committees to develop operational procedures. Dominic Jacangelo and Rob Belue Agreed to work on this task.

A motion was made by Paul Dyster and seconded by Paul Leuchner to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting concluded at 5:40 pm.