

Minutes of the Executive Committee
Of the
Niagara River Greenway Commission
Beaver Island State Park
February 27, 2007 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chairman Robert Kresse at 5:20 pm.

Attendees: Robert Kresse, Chairman
Paul Leuchner, Commission Member
Paul Dyster, Commission Member
Ron Moline, Commission Member
Dominic Jacangelo, representing NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Rob Belue, Executive Director, Niagara River Greenway Commission
Ron Hayes, NYSDOT
Ellen Parker, Wendel Duchscherer
Jim Ward representing NY State Senator Maziarz
Harvey Albond
Seth Piccarillo representing NYS Assembly member Francine Delmonte

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of January 16, 2007 were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Ron Moline and seconded by Paul Dyster. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

Plan Management Committee

Dominic Jacangelo reported on behalf of Chairman John Giardino. The transfer of Executive Director Rob Belue to the Natural Heritage Trust has been completed. The New York State Department of State Quality Communities Grant contract has been sent to the State Attorney General for approval. Following approval the contract will go to the Comptrollers Officer where arrangements will be made for payment of grant funds.
Paddles Up Niagara 2007

Event Chairman Paul Leuchner reported that Paddles Up Niagara 2007 will be held on July 28, 2007 at Beaver Island State Park. The river paddling event will follow a different and shorter course that will provide better protection from the wind and a greater diversity of river landscapes. A picnic following the paddling event may be offered but no details are available at this time. The event is now listed on the event calendar sites maintained by Seakayaker Magazine and www.paddling.net. The Paddles Up Trail brochure has been completed in draft and should be released to the public in the next couple of months.
Plan Management Committee: Niagara River Greenway Plan Update

Dominic Jacangelo reported that the Plan Management Committee (PMC) had reviewed 128 written and verbal comments received on the draft Niagara River Greenway Plan. He noted that the comments were quite useful providing constructive criticism and sound advice. In response to the comments minor changes were made to the draft plan. The PMC members were thanked for the many hours of assistance they provided during and after the public comment process. He reviewed the three principal documents that will be placed before the Niagara Greenway Commission for approval namely: the Summary of Changes to the Niagara River Greenway (NRG) Plan and Draft GEIS; the Text Changes to the NRG Plan; and the Proposed Comments and Responses that will be included as the new Chapter 7 in the GEIS.

Robert Kresse suggested crafting a motion for the Commission recommending adoption of the revised draft plan and the DGEIS. The following motion was proposed by Dominic Jacangelo who after making the motion advised that he would recuse himself from the Commission vote because of the subsequent involvement of the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The recommended motion follows:

“That the Executive Committee accepts all of the changes represented in the following three documents:

- Summary of Changes to the Niagara River Greenway Plan and Draft GEIS dated February 27, 2007;
- Text Changes to the Niagara River Greenway Plan, February 2007;
- Comments and Responses;

and advances them to the full Commission with a recommendation that they adopt a preliminary draft final Niagara River Greenway Plan and Generic EIS.

The recommended motion was seconded by Bob Kresse and subsequently approved by the members of the Executive Committee for referral to the Niagara River Greenway Commission.

Old Business

Status of the Municipal Approval Process

Executive Director Rob Belue reported that to date six municipalities had approved the Niagara River Greenway Plan. Presentations have been made to all municipalities except the City of Buffalo which will occur in the near future. Ron Moline suggested Commission members contact the representatives of municipalities that have not acted and encourage them to support the plan. Resolutions are still needed from the following municipalities: City of Buffalo, Town of Wheatfield, City of Niagara Falls, Town of Niagara, Town of Lewiston, Village of Lewiston and the Town of Porter.

New Business

Robert Kresse stated that we are still a long way from accessing the NYPA Relicensing Settlement Funds. He noted that in order to achieve success we must work together as a region and not confine our interests to political boundaries. The Niagara River Greenway Plan is our agenda for the future. In this regard, the standing committee members should

be respectful of one another and work toward the goal of establishing a greenway for the common good.

Paul Dyster reported on the passing of environmentalist Bruce Kerschner and recommended that the Niagara River Greenway Commission forward a letter of condolence to his family commending him for his unceasing efforts to protect the environment. The recommendation was so moved by Robert Kresse and seconded by Ron Moline the motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:53 pm.

Paul Leuchner, Secretary