

**Minutes of the Executive Committee**  
**Of the**  
**Niagara River Greenway Commission**  
**Beaver Island State Park**  
**May 22, 2007 12:00 noon**

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chairman Robert Kresse at 12:30 pm.

Attendees: Robert Kresse, Chairman  
John Giardino, Commission Member  
Paul Leuchner, Commission Member  
Paul Dyster, Commission Member  
Ron Moline, Commission Member  
Rob Belue, Executive Director, Niagara River Greenway Commission  
Dominic Jacangelo, representing NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP)  
Mark Thomas, NYSOPRHP  
Ed Rutkowski, NYSOPRHP  
Ray Goll, NYSOPRHP  
Rob Daly, NY Power Authority

**Committee Reports**

**Finance Committee**

John Giardino reported that efforts are underway to establish a permanent funding line item in the State budget for Commission operating expenses. He also reported that expenditures for 07-08 have been identified. Within the next 30 days the funding issue should be resolved

**Event Committee**

Paul Leuchner reported that planning for Paddles Up Niagara 2007 is well under way. The date of the event is July 28, 2007. Additional details can be found on the Niagara River Greenway Commission web site.

The Paddles Up Niagara Trail map and brochure has been completed. The New York State Department of Transportation has agreed to print color copies for distribution to the general public

**Application Process Review**

The Chairman opened discussion on the draft application that will be used for projects that are brought before the Niagara River Greenway Commission for consultation or review. Executive committee reviewed the draft application and held a brainstorming session to discuss the application process. In addition to comments made by members of the Niagara River Greenway Commission several members of the public also participated including Ron Pillozzi, Michelle Vanstrom and Harvey Albond, Discussion highlights follow:

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Executive Director Rob Belue noted that the draft application was sent to five hundred email addresses and comments on the document have been received by the Executive Director. He reviewed the comments that were received on the draft application.

- Commissioner Ron Moline commented on the application review process and the scope of the actual consultation process
- Executive Director Rob Belue noted that the application is designed for internal use by the Commission and intended to facilitate the process of consultation and review.
- Dominic Jacangelo reminded everyone that state agency actions must be consistent with the Niagara River Greenway Plan. He noted that there are three separate circumstances under which the Niagara River Greenway Commission can become involved in a project:
  - Project review
  - Consistency endorsement
  - Consultation process
    - Commissioner John Giardino stated that a timeline needs to be established for application submittals, review, and recommendations. He also suggested the possibility of a joint meeting between the Niagara River Greenway Commission, the New York Power Authority and the standing committees for proposal discussion.
- Chairman Robert Kresse stated that the two most important objectives are collaboration and consensus. He agreed that a meeting may be necessary to discuss collaboration between the standing committees.
- Paul Dyster noted that the application documentation will serve as a triage process for the review of projects. He noted that some proposals will be well developed while other will be marginally developed or will need help to develop.
- Paul Leuchner noted that project proponents are entitled to a reasonable expectation of decision and agreed that a time line is necessary. He also emphasized the importance of SEQR in terms of planning for new projects and suggested that proponents consider using the environmental assessment form as a guide. The form is available on the NYSDEC web page. .
- . Chairman Robert Kresse suggested adding a statement that environmental assessment considerations have been met.
- John Giardino said the process should follow the format of the Niagara River Greenway Plan. He suggested numbering the sections within the application form so that they can be cross referenced with the relevant sections of the Niagara River Greenway Plan
- Dominic Jacangelo commented that the draft application was created to stimulate conversation. The next step is to schedule a workshop.

At the conclusion of the discussions on the draft application package Executive Director Rob Belue asked for volunteers to assist with the development of the final document.

A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Leuchner and seconded by John Giardino. The meeting adjourned at 1:53 pm.

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Paul G. Leuchner, Secretary