

NREC Meeting Minutes: March 4, 2019

Members Present: Ann (League of Women Voters), Don (WNY Presbytery), Bob (Adirondack Mountain Club), Jo & Kerrie (Waterkeeper), Jajean (WNY Land Conservancy), Larry (Sierra Club, by phone), Melissa (Buffalo Audubon)

Members Absent: John (Niagara Musky Association)

Alternate Meetings: May 6, July 29

Alternate Site Location: Harlem Road Community Center or another location TBD-more investigation required

- 1) Minutes approval postponed since we do not have any from last month
- 2) Chair report: All projects from last Greenway round found to be consistent; no other Greenway items to discuss; GESC/ESC-met recently to discuss Round 1 GEF proposals-NREC will vote today; GESC waiting on 2 votes (FWS, NREC). Jo to ensure that Bob is added to GESC proposal review. Steve Schoenwisener provided a financial update for both funds-Jo provided copies of finances for the committee to review.
- 3) Melissa agreed to take over the role of Secretary moving forward
- 4) Ann shared the NREC financial statement; BNW reached out to CFGB to see if we could spend additional funds to support projects or other ideas; CFG is running some numbers/scenarios for us and will have some projections for the group to look at next time.
- 5) GEF projects:

-WNY Land Conservancy: Niagara Gorge Restoration: Phase 2: \$949,598 over 3 years

- Jajean gave an overview of the request; Don proposed a motion to approve funding; Ann seconded the motion-no discussion on the motion.
- 6 in favor, no opposition, WNYLC abstained. Motion approved.

-Invasive Plant Removal & Native Plant Conservation by Niagara University: \$54,655 over 3 years

- Jo gave an overview; slight budget amendment expected but not expected to be significant. GESC wanted to include a condition that NU provide a letter stating that the university will protect the forest in perpetuity. Jajean moved to approve the request, Don seconded the request.
- All voted in favor. No opposition and no abstentions.

- 6) Greenway Consistency Proposals:

-Weather Citizen Scientist App: \$351,000

- Recommendation and Comments: Not consistent with the Greenway Plan. No apparent connection. Might be a connection in later stages.
- 6 votes in favor of motion, no opposition, WNY Land Conservancy abstained. Motion carried.

-Empire State Trail Buffalo Section Gap Funding: City of Buffalo: \$700,000

- Recommendation and Comments: Consistent with plan with the following comments: Commissioners should advise funding committees on whether this is a maintenance project. City of Buffalo should agree to maintain the new trail at a better state than they currently do, and City should consider native plants, permeable pavement and bioswales to offset stormwater.
- All voted in favor, no opposition and no abstentions.

-Marilyn Toohey Park All Inclusive Playground: Village of Lewiston: \$725,000

- Recommendation and Comments: Motion as consistent with the following comments: Town should consider including an educational pollinator garden, or some other form of enhanced outdoor learning opportunity alongside the playground. Include age-appropriate signage.
- All voted in favor; no opposition; no abstentions

-Lewiston Circle of Honor Veterans Memorial: \$200,000

- Recommendation and Comments: Not consistent with the following comments for Commissioners: NREC has consistently voiced their concerns about the Greenway setting a precedent to be a source of revenue for statuary. We respectfully continue to ask that Commissioners convey these longstanding concerns to each funding committee more clearly, in light of their advisory role to oversee implementation of the Greenway Plan.
- 6 votes in favor; WNY Land Conservancy opposed; no abstentions.

7) Meeting schedule revision to meet the Greenway Commission new dates. Proposing to add another meeting to original NREC schedule and revising it as follows:

- **May 6, July 29, Aug 26 and Nov. 4.**
- Jo to send an outlook invite and follow-up in email.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30