

North Tonawanda

COMMON COUNCIL PASSES SOLAR MORATORIUM

Botanical Gardens to apply for grant funds for parking lot repair

BY MICHAEL DEPIETRO
Tribune Editor

Following a public hearing last week, the North Tonawanda Common Council unanimously passed a six-month moratorium on applications, approvals and/or construction or installation on solar energy systems/and or solar farms in the city. Officials said the period will give the council the time and ability "to complete all reasonable and necessary review, study analysis and, if warranted, revision to the City of North Tonawanda Zoning Code as may be necessary to promote and preserve the health,

safety and welfare of the City of North Tonawanda and its citizens."

The approval was made during a special session during the council's biweekly workshop session.

The move comes as the Town of Wheatfield explores installing a ground-mounted solar facility at the disused Witmer Road dump site. Since it borders North Tonawanda, which currently has no solar law on its books, guidelines related to property value and assessment would be deferred to New York state's rules and regulations. Council President Robert Pecoraro said the town would rather avoid that.

er avoid that.

"As a municipality, (we) need to protect ourselves from the overreach of the governor and New York state, by dictating to us what it is we do, how we do it and when we do it. That's why we did the law, so that we rule our own destiny when it comes to solar energy systems and or solar farms," he said.

A late communication item was also introduced and approved during the special session from the Parks and Recreation Department allowing the North Tonawanda Botanical Garden to seek a \$100,000 NYS DEC EJ grant for its parking

lot remediation project.

The Botanical Garden's Dave Conti explained plans are part of a larger green infrastructure project for the garden. He said, in March, plans were originally to do the project in one go, which would have included parking lot repairs, a newly installed boat launch, and remediations to deal with runoff going into the canal. However, that one-shot, holistic plan was scrapped for being too ambitious and too expensive. It was decided to handle the parking lot as phase one, but that was scrapped when initial project estimates came in totaling over \$1.6 million.

Since then, Conti said the department has scaled the parking lot repairs further to a more manageable starting point and recently applied for \$200,000 in funding from the Tonawanda Coke Environmental Benefit Fund, which would be used for the north end of the parking lot near the greenhouse. He explained the department had initially applied for a GIGP (stormwater infrastructure) grant but withdrew, as it wasn't "fiscally or

financially ready" at that time.

Conti said a major goal of the project is to see its completion without using any city funds.

"The DEC allows us to hold concurrent grants," Conti explained. "This is good for all of us involved because there's no matching funds involved with this. ... We crunched some numbers and we looked at the middle section of the parking lot and we realized that the grant max of \$100,000 for this particular grant, it will probably cover that center loop. And when I say center loop, I'm talking about from the entrance driveways right straight down to the boat launch.

"So, with all that said, I would like to keep this rolling, realizing back when we pulled the plug on the GIGP grant we knew we had a number of about \$1.6 million to do that entire parking lot. And we also knew that the very best we were going to do was get 90% of that covered, which would mean \$160,000 match.

"So, we're trying to accomplish this whole thing in smaller bites with zero funds."

We're Social... Stay up to date on the latest news... Follow Us

NIAGARA FRONTIER PUBLICATIONS
Niagara-Wheatfield Tribune
Island Dispatch
Lewiston-Porter Sentinel
Grand Island PennySaver

wnypapers.com • facebook.com/wnypapers • @wnypapers

DON'T MISS A THING!
Go to our website

wnypapers.com

Local News, Stories,
Classifieds, Coupons,
Service Directory!

NIAGARA FRONTIER PUBLICATIONS

NIAGARA COUNTY SERVICE DIRECTORY

To place an ad in this section, please call NFP: 773-7676, Fax: 773-7190 or E-mail: TribuneSales@wnypapers.com or SentinelSales@wnypapers.com
NFP does not knowingly accept false advertising. Customer beware & thoroughly research any advertising before answering.

◆ WE ARE AT YOUR SERVICE! ◆

• Great Advertising • Low Low Price • All Four Newspapers!

NIAGARA FRONTIER PUBLICATIONS Niagara-Wheatfield Tribune • Lewiston-Porter Sentinel
Grand Island PennySaver • Island Dispatch

PLUS! Service Directory can be found on our website! wnypapers.com

<p>HANDYMAN</p> <p>Handy Randy 799-9858 Handyman Services Serving Northern Niagara County</p>	<p>When it's time to advertise your business... It's time to call Niagara Frontier Publications! 773-7676</p>	<p>NEW WORLD HOME DESIGN FREE ESTIMATES 990-9868 Call 24 Hours www.newworldremodeling.com Complete Home Repair and Remodeling Interior and Exterior No Job Too Small</p>	<p>INSURANCE</p> <p>Mike Neal Agent State Farm Insurance Companies Home Office: Bloomington, Illinois 2908 Military Road Niagara Falls 297-5566 Auto • Home • Life • Health</p>	<p>NIAGARA Lawn and Garden Care Experience-Quality-Service •LAWN CARE •LANDSCAPING •SPRING CLEAN-UPS •PAVER/RETAINING WALL INSTALLATIONS 716-628-1879 www.niagaralagc.com</p>	<p>THIS COULD BE YOUR AD call your sales rep today... 773-7676</p>
<p>LAWN SERVICE</p> <p>ZNC Lawn Service • Mowing • Spring Clean Ups • Trimming/Edging • Mulching • Brush Hogging Zack (716) 730-0331 Cory (716) 804-2071</p>	<p>LOCKSMITH</p> <p>LOCKOUTS AUTO KEYS 24 HR SERVICE 1219 Main St., Niagara Falls Commercial Auto • Residential 285-9712 Cataract Safe & Lock cataractsafeandlock.com</p>	<p>PAINTING</p> <p>PROFESSIONAL PAINTING CO. Interior • Exterior 3 rooms starting at \$285 Price includes: Sherwin Williams Paint Free Estimates • Insured 2 Year Warranty With Exterior 583-5365</p>	<p>PAINTING</p> <p>UNITED PAINTING & PLASTERING 292-4576 Painting Plastering Staining Drywall 10% OFF Limited Time COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL Interior & Exterior (2 yr Warranty) FREE ESTIMATE • FULLY INSURED Louisunitedpainting@gmail.com "Not All Doctors Are The Same"</p>	<p>PAINTING</p> <p>DAVE & PAULS PAINTING AND PLASTERING • Drywall / Water Damage • Popcorn Removal • Wallpaper & Wallpaper Removal • Plumbing & Carpentry 10% DISCOUNT ALWAYS FREE ESTIMATES • INSURED VERY NEAT & CLEAN 903-6966 773-3023</p>	<p>PAVING & CONTRACTING</p> <p>Maloney Paving and Contracting L.L.C. Residential & Commercial Paving Driveways & Parking Lots Pot Hole Repair • Walkways Credit Cards Accepted FREE ESTIMATES 804-4234</p>
<p>PRINTING SERVICES</p> <p>WE PRINT JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING Business Cards Menus - Take Out & In-House Business Card Magnets Stickers Feather Flags Door Hangers Vinyl Window Decals Vinyl Floor Decals Post Card Mailers Brochures Booklets Event Tickets Table Tents Yard Signage Pole Banners Posters Greeting Cards Invitations Flyers Screen Print ... and much more</p> <p>NIAGARA FRONTIER PUBLICATIONS Island Dispatch • Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel • Grand Island PennySaver Phone: 773-7676 • Fax: 773-7190 WWW.WNYPAPERS.COM</p>	<p>PLUMBING</p> <p>Need Work Done? Best Prices Around! FREE ESTIMATES 10% DISCOUNT 603-0327 EMERGENCY: 448-8967</p>	<p>PLUMBING</p> <p>Need Work Done? Best Prices Around! FREE ESTIMATES 10% DISCOUNT 603-0327 EMERGENCY: 448-8967</p>	<p>NIAGARA FRONTIER Publications 1859 Whitehaven Rd. Grand Island, New York 14072 Phone: 773-7676 Fax: 773-7190 wnypapers.com</p>	<p>ROOFING/SIDING</p> <p>ROBERTS ROOFING & SIDING For 4 Generations • Since 1940 •Roofing •Windows •Siding •Doors •Gutters •Patio Rooms Fully Insured • Fully Licensed • Free Estimates (716) 433-2883 6279 Ridge Rd. Lockport www.robertsroofingandsiding.com</p>	<p>TRANSPORTATION</p> <p>NIAGARA COUNTY'S RURAL NIAGARA PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION Serving Niagara County NCCC/BOCES Shopping Malls Hospitals Human Service Agencies Monday-Friday \$2 Fare 285-9357</p>