



**Minutes 6-2007
Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee**

**Regional Municipal Building
Committee Room 4**

Wednesday, November 7, 2007 – 5:00 p.m.

** Recommendation included for Committee approval. Ref: page 4*

Present

- D. Bruce Timms (Chair) - Regional Councillor, City of St. Catharines
- Fred Neale - Councillor, City of Thorold
- Peter Randall - Councillor, Town of Lincoln
- Ann Marie Noyes - Councillor, Town of Fort Erie
- John Durley - Councillor, Town of Pelham
- Bill Phillips - Councillor, City of St. Catharines
- Robert Ritchie - Niagara Parks Commission
- Marjorie Hotte - Upper Canada Equestrian Association
- Dennis Paris - Niagara Timberline Riders Motorcycle Club
- Barbara Skelton - Niagara Bruce Trail Club

Regrets

- Nick Andreychuk - Councillor, Town of Grimsby
- Leo Van Vleet - Councillor, City of Welland
- Jim Diodati - Councillor, City of Niagara Falls
- Eva Salter - Ministry of Culture, City of St. Catharines
- John Bedard - Welland Canals Foundation

Guests

- Russell Vamplew - Upper Canada Equestrian Association
- Peter Skelton - Niagara Bruce Trail Club
- Tony Vandermaas - City of Thorold Resident
- Manoj Dilwaria - Delcan Consulting
- Paul Pattison - Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee

Staff

- John Rizzo - Regional Niagara Public Works Department
(Part time attendance)
- Marian Landry - Regional Public Health Department
(Part time attendance)
- George Nicholson - Regional Niagara Planning Department

1. Minutes of September 26, 2007 meeting

Moved by Fred Neale
Seconded by John Durley

That the minutes of the September 26, 2007, meeting be approved as circulated.

Carried

**2. Environmental Assessment of Lakeshore Road section from
Four Mile Creek to Townline Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake**

Manoj Dilwaria from Dillon Consulting presented information on the four options being considered as a solution to the improvement of the Lakeshore Road section identified above. These options had been presented in a Public Information Centre and are those which are being considered as the Environmental Assessment proceeds.

After the presentation the following issues were raised:

- There was a general concern about safety and the consultant indicated that this would be an important aspect of the evaluation of the options. Several members thought that the mountable curb option would be safer than the others as it provided more separation between motorists and cyclists,
- There was concern about the aesthetics of the options and particular interest was expressed on maintaining the general character of the road through a rural area,
- The question was asked about whether all of the options were equal in terms of the effect and cost of winter maintenance. The consultant thought that all of them would stand up to winter maintenance without adverse effects and agreed to include that aspect in the further assessment of the options.
- The issue was raised about how much the bicycle lanes component of the project would cost independently of the complete road reconstruction. The consultant estimated this to be between \$750,000 and \$1.2 million depending on which option was chosen.
- The view was presented that the reconstruction of Lakeshore Road was required to bring it up to Regional standards and that as part of that work the Bicycle Lanes needed to be included as the route was part of the Regional Bicycling Network. John Rizzo from the Regional Public Works Department responded that Lakeshore Road reconstruction in this area was not part of any Regional Capital budget proposals within the next five years and that the road could be fixed up to last another 10 to 15 years without major reconstruction. The issue of the completion of the Greater Niagara Circle Route and that section of the Waterfront Trail would be issues to be

considered in the assessment of where this project might fit into future Regional Capital Budgets.

The committee did not take any position on the preferred option but Comment Sheets were provided to members with the understanding that any member could complete and return them to the consultant. The consultant volunteered to make another presentation to the Committee after the next stage of the project. This was accepted and will be included on an appropriate future agenda.

3. Progress on the East Side Spit in St. Catharines

Councillor Bill Phillips from St. Catharines reported that discussion on the future of this proposal was proceeding with a staff report being expected by City Council in the near future. At the public meeting held to discuss the project there were concerns expressed by some residents who thought the Spit could be more appropriately used for dog walking but that there was also considerable support for the trail extension. The proposal is that the City would maintain the proposed trail at an estimated annual cost of \$8000 and that it would be a hard packed stone dust surface rather than an asphalt one in recognition of the environmental issues and the cost. Committee members were encouraged to attend the City Council meeting when the staff report would be presented.

4. Greater Niagara Circle Route Signage

As a follow up to directions at the last meeting, staff have pursued the installation of distance markers every 0.5 kms around the trail. The starting point of 0.0 kms is at the Fort in Fort Erie as this was the point where the Niagara Parks Commission wished to begin and they had a commitment to proceed. The marking has proceeded in a counter-clockwise direction as far as the Thorold-Welland boundary which is 94.5 kms. The intent is to complete that as soon as possible.

In addition to the distance markers, concern had been expressed several times about the need for route identification markers so that people did not get lost. The staff suggestion made at the meeting was that a template showing the Greater Niagara Circle Route logo could be installed on the trail surface with direction arrows being included at appropriate points. There was some concern about whether or not the paint would create a slippery surface or perhaps be especially prone to graffiti. However the Committee agreed that staff should install about 15 to 20 of these markers in selected points so that their effect can be assessed and the possibility of extending them around the whole route could then be considered. Based upon that discussion, it was:

Moved by Fred Neale
Seconded by Barbara Skelton

That this Committee recommend to Regional Council:
That Regional staff be directed to proceed with the installation of 15 to 20 Greater Niagara Circle Route logo signs on the trail pavement in selected areas as the prelude to further consideration of using those as directional signage around the whole route.

Carried

*
BY
Approval

5. Copyright Protection for the Greater Niagara Circle Route Logo and Related Trademarks

George Nicholson reported that he had approached the Regional solicitor to initiate the process of protecting the Greater Niagara Circle Route logo, the name and email address. To the best of staff's knowledge, this was underway.

6. Trillium Grant Informational Signage Application

Staff reported that discussions had begun with Seaway staff regarding these and that meetings were being organized with each of the four local municipalities to inform them and preferably obtain their endorsement. The project is under the management of the Canadian Canals Society with Mr. Tom Whitelaw, the President, being the key contact. The intent is to have informational signage on key features along the Welland Canals Trail portion of the Greater Niagara Circle Route and the goal is to have the submission available for consideration in the March 2008 round of Trillium Grant applications.

7. Status of Welland Canals Heritage Corridor Project

George Nicholson reported that he had been contacted by Mr. Marc de Caraffe, Research Manager, Historic Services Branch, National Historic Sites Directorate at Parcs Canada and that he had arranged to take Mr. de Caraffe on a tour of the corridor on Tuesday, November 20th. Three prominent members of the heritage community, Mr. John Burtiak, Mr. Alun Hughes and Mr. Roger Bradshaw had volunteered to participate in the tour and assist with providing heritage related information. As well several members of the Committee were interested in attending.

In association with this topic the Committee considered whether or not it was the appropriate group to supervise the Heritage Corridor designation project. Some concern was expressed that this was a separate project from the Trails construction and that it required specialized heritage-related expertise, and that this Committee should not extend its mandate to include the Heritage Corridor.

8. Rideau Waterway Symposium

An outline and Registration Form had been circulated to Committee members as part of the agenda package. The Chair indicated that he had attended this in the past but would most likely be unable to do so this year. He invited anyone interested to attend as he felt it provided useful information related to Canal preservation. The Symposium will be in Kingston on Monday, November 26, 2007.

9. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at about 6.30 p.m. The proposed 2008 schedule of meetings is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

Prepared by



George Nicholson
Senior Policy Coordination Planner

APPENDIX

Appendix I

2008 Schedule of Meetings

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Niagara  Region

MEMORANDUM

FILE: D.14.A.34.34
DATE: October 19, 2006
TO: Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee
SUBJECT: **Greater Niagara Circle Route Meetings for 2008**

The following is a list of the dates of the GNCR meetings for 2008. Please note that the **June 4th meeting will be held in CR 3.**

Date of GNCR Meeting	Meeting Room
January 30	CR 4
March 12	CR 4
April 23	CR 4
June 4, 2008	CR 3 ***
July 16, 2008	CR 4
September 17, 2008	CR 4
October 29, 2008	CR 4
December 10, 2008	CR 4



George Nicholson, MCIP, RPP
Associate Director, Policy/Implementation