

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

**ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

REPORT 7-2011

Minutes of a meeting of the Region of Niagara Accessibility Advisory Committee, held in the Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Tuesday, December 6, 2011, commencing at 12:37 p.m. in Committee Room 4.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Mr. Eden (Chair); Mr. Greaves, Ms. Isaak, Ms. Keith, Ms. Krieger, Mr. Mahony, Ms. Morabito, Ms. Toole, Ms. Whitty.

Staff: Messrs. Murphy, Accessibility Advisory Coordinator; Herstek, Manager, Facility Management; Ward, Corporate Health and Safety Advisor; Ms. Dawn, Legislative Assistant.

Other: Ms. Grandfield, Interpreter.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

59. Accessibility Advisory Committee
October 25, 2011 Minutes

Moved by Mr. Mahony
Seconded by Ms. Krieger

That Report 6-2011, being the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of October 25, 2011, be approved as distributed.

Carried.

60. 2012 Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule
Meeting Schedule

Moved by Ms. Toole
Seconded by Ms. Keith

That the 2012 Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule, be received and approved.

Carried.

CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

61. Moved by Mr. Mahony
Seconded by Ms. Issak

That the following reports and correspondence items be received for information:

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| AAC 101-2011 | A memorandum from Mr. Steve Murphy, Accessibility Coordinator, dated November 28, 2011, respecting Paperless Meeting Format. |
| AAC 102-2011 | A memorandum from Mr. Steve Murphy, Accessibility Coordinator, dated November 29, 2011, respecting Audible Pedestrian Signals. |
| AAC 95-2011 | A letter from the Honourable Charles Sousa, Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, dated November 2011, inviting nominations for the Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers. |
| AAC 96-2011 | Accessibility in Niagara Falls: 25 years after the Rick Hansen tour, 'things are getting better' Niagara Falls Review – Fri Nov 11 2011 |
| AAC 97-2011 | Letters to the Editor – Misleading Information Niagara Falls Review – Thu Nov 17 2011 |
| AAC 98-2011 | Accessibility improving Niagara Falls Review – Wed Nov 23 2011 |
| AAC 99-2011 | Relay bears silver lining The Welland Tribune – Fri Nov 18 2011 |
| AAC 100-2011 | Plan needed to cope with aging inmates; Correctional investigator says system ill-equipped Toronto Star – Wed Nov 2 2011 |

Carried.

(Refer to Information Requests.)

OTHER BUSINESS

62. Minute Approval Process

Ms. Dawn informed the Committee that the current minute-approval process involves the Committee approving their meeting minutes prior to the minutes appearing before the Integrated Community Planning Committee (ICPC). Once the minutes are approved by the ICPC, they appear before Regional Council for ratification as part of the ICPC minutes. Any motions contained within the AAC minutes may not be acted upon until ratified by Council. Typically it takes 6 weeks for AAC minutes to be ratified by Council. An alternative which would expedite ratification by Council, would be to forward meeting minutes to the ICPC without approval by the AAC. Another approach would be to only send minutes to the ICPC which are time sensitive. Hearing no objection, the Committee Chair requested the meeting minutes be forwarded directly to the ICPC for approval.

63. Provision of Community Assistance

Mr. Mahony inquired as to how the Committee may become more involved with other Accessibility Advisory Committees throughout the Niagara Region in order to promote an increase in awareness of accessibility needs, standards, and requirements. Mr. Murphy informed the Committee that the Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee is able to share its resources in order to help other similar committees. He suggested that members from the Region's Age-Friendly Committee speak with their local Accessibility Committee to provide feedback as to which areas of accessibility require improvements and to suggest the Region's Accessibility Advisory Committee as a resource.

64. Bell Relay

Mr. Eden encouraged members of the Committee to use the Bell Relay service which converts the spoken word into TTY and converts entries in TTY into the spoken word.

65. Regional Council Representative

Mr. Murphy informed the Committee that a representative from Regional Council has not been assigned to the Committee because the vacancy made by Cindy Forster's resignation has not yet been filled.

Moved by Ms. Krieger
Seconded by Ms. Keith

That this Committee recommends to the Integrated Community Planning Committee:

That a representative from Regional Council be appointed to the Accessibility Advisory Committee prior to filling the vacancy on Regional Council for the City of Welland.

Carried.

INFORMATION REQUESTS

That staff:

- Investigate the protocol in place when traffic signals at an intersection freeze to allow emergency vehicles to pass. (Refer to Minute Item #61.)

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 2:05 p.m. to meet again on Tuesday, February 14, 2012 at 12:30 p.m. in Committee Room 4.

Geoff Eden
Chair

Natasha L. Dawn
Legislative Assistant

Kevin Bain
Regional Clerk