

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

REPORT 7-2010

Minutes of a meeting of the Region of Niagara Accessibility Advisory Committee (RNAAC), held in the Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Tuesday, October 19 2010, commencing at 12:30 p.m. in Committee Room 4.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Geoff Eden, Chair, Krystine Donato, Christine Keith, Anita MacKenzie, Mary Lou Whitty, Griz Witlib

Committee Jean Bennett, Councillor Cindy Forster, Jocelyne Gagne, Ian Greaves,
Regrets: Diann Krieger, Carol Walker

Staff: Steve Murphy, Accessibility Advisory Coordinator, Catherine O'Leary,
Penny Pitt, Administrative Assistant, Kumar Ranjan,

Guests: Renee McKinley, Interpreter

Geoff Eden welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Introductions were made around the table for the benefit of everyone in attendance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Agenda 7-2010 for the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of Tuesday, October 19, 2010 was approved as presented.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

64. Moved by Krystine Donato
Seconded by Christine Keith

That Report 6-2010, being the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of September 7, 2010 be approved as distributed.

Carried.

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN – UPDATE FROM DEPARTMENTS

65. Inter-Municipal Transit Pilot Project

Kumar Ranjan reported that at the Public Works Committee meeting of September 14, 2010, staff was authorized to fund a grant for procuring eight transit buses; three (3) buses for the St. Catharines Transit Commission, three (3) buses for the City of Niagara Falls and two (2) buses for the City of Welland.

A Pilot Project Agreement between Niagara Region and the three Service Providers (St. Catharines Transit Commission, the City of Niagara Falls, and the City of Welland) has been approved by the legal department and is close to completion.

Public Works staff will develop with the Service Providers, a plan for implementing a transit Trip Planner with a target date of the end of December 2010.

66. AODA Customer Service Training Update

Steve Murphy reported to the committee that he continues to receive requests, both internally and externally, for the AODA Customer Service Training.

67. American Sign Language Course

Steve Murphy apprised the committee that the ASL course is going well with students enjoying the classes and learning lots.

68. Stairway Safety

In follow up to a committee discussion regarding stairway safety, Catherine O’Leary of Public Health will investigate if and how information is sent out to the community.

AODA STANDARDS

69. Proposed Accessible Standard Public Review Feedback

The review period for public feedback ended on October 16, 2010. The AMCTO, AMO and Dave Lepovsky were among the people who provided feedback. The current proposed draft was felt to be too watery and needed stronger wording. The proposed draft from the Province could be expected early in the new year. The Built Environment Standard will be a major initiative next put out closer to the Provincial Election.

**Moved by Krystine Donato
Seconded by Griz Witlib**

That Steve Murphy send correspondence to the Accessibility Advisory Directive outlining the views of the committee.

Carried

70. Applications for Accessibility Advisory Committee for 2011-2014

Following the municipal elections, advertising for membership for several committees will be placed in local newspapers. Current members will be advised of the date. After review of applications, Regional Councillors affiliated with each committee will appoint members. A suggestion was made to contact the following agencies to determine if there is any interest in applying for membership on the Accessibility Advisory Committee:

- March of Dimes
- Niagara Peninsula Children Centre
- Brain Injury
- Community Living in Welland and Lincoln
- Niagara Centre for Independent Living
- Shaver Hospital – Brian Kon

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following Items for Information were reviewed and received:

AAC 92-2010	An article from the Dundas Star News dated Sept. 8/10 entitled "Dundas Valley Golf and Curling Club announces renovation project"
AAC 93-2010	An article from Niagara This Week dated Sept. 8/10 entitled "New spot for Food Fest"
Acc 94-2010	An article from the Bloor West Villager dated Sept. 9/10 entitled "Brentwood library to close for major renovation"
AAC 95-2010	An article from the Northumberland Today dated Sept. 10/10 entitled "Ramp for YMCA pool not yet decided"
AAC 96-2010	An article from the Vancouver Sun dated Sept. 13/10 entitled "Disabled sailors gather in Vancouver to compete for Mobility Cup this week"
AAC 97-2010	An article from the Durham Region dated Sept. 13/10 entitled "Grand opening for 'new' Bewdley Community Centre"

AAC 98-2010	An article from the Lindsay Post dated Sept 14/10 entitled "Letters to the Editor Column"
AAC 99-2010	An article from Niagara This Week dated Sept 14/10 entitled "Hoe at the Heartland"
AAC 100-2010	An article from the Vancouver Sun dated Sept 16/10 entitled "To the Fringe in a wheelchair"
AAC 101-2010	An article from the Smith Falls EMC dated Sept 16/10 entitled "Historic Red Brick School will soon be accessible"
AAC 102-2010	An article from the Owen Sound Sun Times dated Sept. 17/10 entitled "Council seeks accessibility grants"
AAC 103-2010	An article from the Niagara Falls Review dated Sept 20/10 entitled "Everyone welcome at Hoedown"
AAC 104-2010	An article from the Orillia Packet and Times dated Sept 20/10 entitled "Accessibility features at new arena changes how active you can be"
AAC 105-2010	An article from the Vancouver Sun dated Sept 21/10 entitled "Firm helps blind know what's on screen"
AAC 106-2010	An article from the Peterborough Examiner dated Sept 22/10 entitled "Keene United Church improves accessibility through renovations"
AAC 107-2010	An article from the Welland Tribune dated Sept 22/10 entitled "Branch 4 showcases Morningstar Hall"
AAC 108-2010	An article from the Pembroke Observer dated Sept 23/10 entitled "This town is a great place to live"
AAC 109-2010	An article from the Orillia Packet and Times dated Sept 23/10 entitled "Lakehead goes above and beyond"
AAC 110-2010	An article from the Caledon Enterprise dated Sept 23/10 entitled "Seniors delegate for accessibility in development"
AAC 111-2010	An article from Northumberland Today dated Sept. 24/10 entitled "Ford withdraws from Cobourg council race"
AAC 112-2010	An article from the Kingston Whig-Standard dated Sept 27/10 entitled "City slow to accommodate the disabled"

- AAC 113-2010 An article from Niagara This Week dated Oct 7/10 entitled “Grimsby politicians assess merit of Joint Accessibility Committee”
- AAC 114-2010 An article from AMO dated Oct 7/10 entitled “AMO responds to Government’s Proposed Integrated Accessibility Regulation”
- AAC 115-2010 An article from Niagara This Week dated Oct 8/10 entitled “All or nothing for accessibility upgrades at Jordan Arena”
- AAC 116-2010 An article from the St. Catharines Standard dated Oct 19/10 entitled “No handicap parking spots at advance poll upsets Thorold couple”

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 2:15 p.m. to meet again in the new year.

Geoff Eden
Chairperson

Penny Pitt
Administrative Assistant
Council Support