

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

REPORT 1-2010

Minutes of a meeting of the Region of Niagara Accessibility Advisory Committee (RNAAC), Ontarians with Disabilities Act held in the Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Tuesday, January 5, 2010, commencing at 12:40 p.m. in Committee Room 4.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Jocelyne Gagne, Chair, Jean Bennett, Krystine Donato, Geoff Eden, Ian Greaves, Christine Keith, Diann Krieger, Anita MacKenzie, Griz Witlib

Committee

Regrets: Councillor Cindy Forster, Brian Kon, Carol Walker, Mary Lou Whitty

Staff: Eric Flora, Zeau Ismail, Steve Murphy, Accessibility Advisory Coordinator, Catherine O'Leary, Penny Pitt, Administrative Assistant,

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

1. Jocelyne Gagne welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

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

Jocelyn Gagne apprised the committee that she would not be standing for the position of Chair due to priorities to new job responsibilities and time constraints. Jocelyn apprised the committee of her enjoyment of working with all committee members and thoughts that it was time to move forward with new leadership for the committee.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND CO CHAIR

2. Jocelyn Gagne, Chair, called for nominations for the position of Chair of Region Niagara Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Moved by Anita MacKenzie

Seconded by Jocelyn Gagne

That Diann Krieger be nominated for the position Chair of Region Niagara Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Carried.

Chair Gagne called a second time for nominations.

Moved by Jocelyn Gagne
Seconded by Anita MacKenzie

That Geoff Eden be nominated for the position Chair of Region Niagara Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Carried.

Chair Gagne called a third time for nominations.

Moved by Jocelyn Gagne
Seconded by Anita MacKenzie

That Krystine Donato be nominated for the position Chair of Region Niagara Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Carried.

Chair Gagne called a fourth time for nominations.

Moved by Jocelyn Gagne
Seconded by Anita MacKenzie

That Jean Bennett be nominated for the position Chair of Region Niagara Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Carried.

Nominations for the position Chair of the Regional Niagara Accessibility Advisory committee were closed. Nominees were asked if they accepted their nomination and Diann Krieger, Geoff Eden and Krystine Donato accepted and Jean Bennett declined the nomination.

Ballots were distributed among the committee members and a tally was taken by Catherine O'Leary and Eric Flora. Chair Gagne declared that Geoff Eden was elected to be the Chair of the Regional Niagara Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Chair Gagne vacated the Chair and Geoff Eden assumed the Chair at this time.

Geoff Eden, Chair, called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of Region Niagara Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Moved by Jocelyn Gagne
Seconded by Anita MacKenzie

That Jean Bennett be nominated for the position Vice Chair of Region Niagara Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Carried.

Chair Eden called a second time for nominations.

Moved by Anita MacKenzie
Seconded by Jocelyn Gagne

That Diann Krieger be nominated for the position Chair of Region Niagara Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Carried.

Chair Eden called a third time for nominations.

Moved by Jocelyn Gagne
Seconded by Anita MacKenzie

That Krystine Donato be nominated for the position Vice Chair of Region Niagara Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Carried.

Nominations for the position Vice Chair of the Regional Niagara Accessibility Advisory committee were closed. Nominees were asked if they accepted their nomination and Jean Bennett, Diann Krieger, and Krystine Donato accepted the nomination. Ballots were distributed among the committee members and a tally was taken by Catherine O'Leary and Eric Flora. Chair Eden declared that Diann Krieger was elected to be the Vice Chair of the Regional Niagara Accessibility Advisory Committee.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3. Moved by Jean Bennett
Seconded by Krystine Donato

That Agenda 1-2010, being the agenda for the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of Tuesday, January 5, 2010 be approved with the addition of two Information Items from Niagara Regional Police Services.

Carried.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4. Moved by Dianne Krieger
Seconded by Jocelyn Gagne

That Report 8-2009, being the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of November 10, 2009 be approved as distributed.

Carried.

REPORT FROM ONAP CONFERENCE

5. Steve Murphy commented to the committee that the two meetings, held on December 8, 2009 held at Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation, with Charles Beer were well attended and informative.

During the morning meeting that included twelve members from local Accessibility Advisory Committees, Charles Beer provided an explanation of his appointment to conduct an independent review of the AODA. He provided an overview of the ODA and AODA Acts that a currently legislation and the Mandate for the Independent Review.

In the afternoon session's Ontario Network of Accessibility Professional (ONAP) teleconference, thirty-five participants from all parts of Ontario participated in discussions regarding standards, challenges, issues and goals that were concerns of Accessibility Advisory Committees.

Steve Murphy apprised the committee that he considered both meetings were a big accomplishment, thanked those that attended and relayed Mr. Beer's happiness to attend. Notes from both sessions were distributed to the committee and staff members.

Ian Greaves commented that in early November, during the annual meeting of the Multiple Sclerosis Society, he had been approached by Mr. Beer with the request of speaking to the Regional Niagara Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Geoff Eden thought the venue was obscure and perhaps there would have been a better morning attendance in another location.

Jocelyne Gagne reiterated that she was disappointed around the issue with transportation to hospitals. She noted that a transportation system was needed from hospital to hospital but who would pay for it.

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN – UPDATE

6. Steve Murphy apprised the committee that the AODA Customer Service Training for pertinent Regional employees was almost complete. An upcoming PeopleSoft report will determine who has not taken any version of the compulsory training. All compliance issues have been addressed and the Region is right on track with training. Catherine O'Leary commended Steve Murphy on the excellent training he has provided to staff.

Steve Murphy informed the committee that this may be the last time to file an Accessibility Plan. He is still working on the completion of the initiatives with the Customer Service Standard initially completed. It is anticipated that the Information and Communications Standards will be out for review soon. In answer to the question of whether there will continue to be an Annual Report, the committee was told that it would be used more as an internal document that provided a measurement of where we are and where we are going.

The ACC is considering the extended use of an Accessibility Plan like document as a way of recording the ongoing activities of the Region's Accessibility Activities rather than only relying on the Compliance Report required by the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario.

NIAGARA SPECIALIZED TRANSIT UPDATE

7. Eric Flora informed the committee that at the upcoming IMSTAC Meeting on Monday, January 11, 2010 the following reports will be available:
- NST Operating Results Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2009
 - NST Long-Term Care Facility Statistics Nov. 1, 2008 – Oct. 31, 2009
 - NST Providing Ride for Alternate Therapy Appointments

A Committee of the Whole Meeting has been scheduled for January 28, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chamber at Regional Headquarters. The Inter Municipal Transit will be considered and the above mentioned reports will be discussed. AODA legislation will affect both capital and current budgets moving forward. Eric Flora recommended that committee members attend. Any questions or concerns could be channeled through Chair Eden or Penny.

Eric Flora also reported that money has been allocated for audible crosswalk signs and plans for a series of installation have been made for requests from the CNIB, Brock University and Niagara College.

INFORMATION ITEMS

8. Summary of Information Items

Information Items – Reviewed and received.

AAC 1-2010	Northumberland Today – Nov 11, 2009 – Hospital parking goes to variable rate
AAC 2-2010	St. Catharines Standard – Nov 11, 2009 – Northumberland Hill Hospital parking rates now reflect length of stay
AAC 3-2010	Durham Region – Nov 11, 2009 – Scugog unveils boardwalk plans
AAC 4-2010	Globe and Mail – Nov 12, 2009 – The Chair of Invisibility
AAC 5-2010	Burlington Post – Nov 12, 2009 - Pan Am Controversy
AAC 6-2010	Pembroke Observer – Dec 2, 2009 – New standards training starts
AAC 7-2010	Creston Valley Advance – Dec 3, 2009 – Donation helps make rec centre more accessible
AAC 8-2010	Globe and Mail – Dec 3, 2009 – Equal Opportunity Apps
AAC 9-2010	Niagara Falls Review – Dec 3, 2009 – Table Rock changes have improved safety
AAC 10-2010	St. Catharines Standard – Dec 8, 2009 - \$600,000 accessibility project yanked
AAC 11-2010	Barrie Examiner – Dec 8, 2009 – Province needs more accessible parking
AAC 12-2010	Brantford Expositor – Dec 8, 2009 – Transit responds to people’s needs

AAC 13-2010	Guelph Tribune – Dec 8, 2009 – Museum whittles \$2 million off plans
AAC 14-2010	Pembroke Observer – Dec 9, 2009 – City prepares for implementation
AAC 15-2010	Northumberland Today – Dec 15, 2009 – Take a free ride on new bus
AAC 16-2010	Brantford Expositor- Dec 15, 2009 – Money provides lift for elevator project
AAC 17-2010	NRPS Media Release – Illegal taxicab operations in St. Catharines results in charge
AAC 18-2010	NRPS Media Release – Limousine and Paratransit Inspections

Following her review of Item AAC 18-2010, Jocelyne Gagne stated she was impressed with the number of vehicles that were taken off the road (6.6%). People use these illegal taxis because they are cheaper and an in-between service is needed for the disabled and aged. A special task force is probably needed to develop regulations that in some way would legalize and govern illegal taxis.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Jocelyn Gagne that the Committee be adjourned at 2:45 p.m. to meet again on Tuesday, February 16, 2010 at 12:30 p.m. in Committee Room 4.

Geoff Eden
Chair

Penny Pitt
Administrative Assistant
Council Support