

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

REPORT 2-2006

Minutes of a meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, Ontarians with Disabilities Act held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Tuesday, March 21, 2006, commencing at 12:45 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Linda Crabtree, St. Catharines, Co-Chair; Sandy Bird, Niagara Falls; Anita MacKenzie, Niagara Falls; Ken Wiersma, Beamsville; Grant Winterton, Port Colborne; Mary Lou Whitty, Port Colborne.

Staff: Wendy Middleton, Corporate Services - Clerks Office; Steve Murphy, Community Services; Diana Lecinski, City of St. Catharines; Councillor Collins.

Regrets: Jocelyne Gagne, Chair; Willy Noiles, St. Catharines; Carol Walker, Niagara-on-the-Lake; Diann Krieger, Fort Erie; Anne Hepplewhite, Corporate Services – Clerks Office; Catherine O’Leary, Public Health.

Guests: Renee McKinley.

QUORUM

1. Moved by Anita McKenzie
Seconded by Ken Wiersma

There being a lack of ordinary quorum at the meeting, the Committee Chair determined that the ordinary quorum for the meeting be reduced to seven members, pursuant to Part 15, Section 15.8.2 of the Procedural By-law 120-2005.

Carried

AGENDA

2. Moved by Ian Greaves
Seconded by Sandy Bird

That the following items of business be added under Other Business.

Red Cross Emergency Shelters – Diana Lecinski
Sensitivity Training – Steve Murphy
New Building Accessibility Status – Ian Greaves

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried

MINUTES

3. Report 1-2006

Moved by Sandy Bird
Seconded by Anita McKenzie

It was noted that the Regrets were missing from the Attendance section of the minutes and should be added.

That Report 1-2006, being the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of Tuesday, February 7, 2006, be approved as amended.

Carried

CORRESPONDENCE

4. Linda Crabtree drew the Committee members attention to the Correspondence Summary issued for their information.

Linda noted that she will be speaking to the Coalition of Accessibility Advisory Committees regarding the Para Olympics and the lack of coverage they receive.

Sandy Bird mentioned that a copy of 21-2006 (City Council Approves Internet Voting - Peterborough) should be given to Regional Council for information.

Linda Crabtree suggested that Wendy Middleton email a copy to each AAC member so that it could be brought back to individual Accessibility Advisory Committees for information.

GLENDRIDGE NATURALIZATION SITE

5. Linda Crabtree provided an overview of the letter she wrote to the Regional Chair regarding the accessibility issues relating to the Glenridge Naturalization Site. The four main issues Linda presented were:
- No sidewalks into the site
 - No disabled parking
 - Road and path surface not solid
 - No wheelchair accessible washrooms

Moved by Ian Greaves
Seconded by Sandy Bird

That the letter to the Regional Chair, written by Linda Crabtree, respecting the accessibility issues relating to Glendridge Naturalization Site be supported.

Carried

PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

6. Wendy Middleton brought forward a report from the Planning and Public Works Committee respecting On-Street Disabled Person Parking.

It was agreed that Wendy should continue to bring reports of this nature to the Committees attention.

OTHER BUSINESS

7. Red Cross Emergency Shelters

Diana Lecinski and Willy Noiles participated in the Red Cross' review of emergency shelters.

For the five or six potential shelters that require auditing Diana suggested to the Red Cross that members from local AAC's participate in the audits. Diana stated to the Red Cross that this participation would be on a volunteer basis and not as professional auditors.

For professional auditing Diana suggested Donna Herrington, Jean Bennett and the March of Dimes to the Red Cross.

It was further suggested that the Facility Accessibility Design Standards be applied when auditing the potential shelters.

Anita McKenzie brought up the issue of transportation to emergency shelters. It was noted that this is an issue that should be brought forward to the Intermunicipal Transit Committee.

8. Universal Design

Linda noted that there is a Universal Design newsletter available for \$75 a year. Linda will send the subscription information to Wendy Middleton

9. Veterans

Steve Murphy briefly discussed that last year was the year of the Veteran and that all veterans were permitted to park at any metered parking for free. Steve noted that Niagara Falls has extended this to the lifetime of the veteran.

10. National Access Awareness Week

Diana Lecinski reminded the Committee of National Access Awareness Week and encouraged members to submit nominations by April 21, 2006.

11. Sensitivity Training

Steve Murphy noted that a management focused sensitivity training session will be taking place soon and will be led by Bruce Robinson. The whole process should be completed before the next AAC meeting. Steve mentioned that he would like to re-offer the original session to those that were not able to take it the first time it was offered.

12. New Building

Ian Greaves was curious to know if there were any updates on the new addition. Steve Murphy mentioned that he would contact Teeple Architects to see if there are any new issues surrounding accessibility and whether the Committee's original concerns have been addressed.

13. Human Rights Commission

It was suggested by Linda Crabtree to visit the following site www.contaac.ca in respect to potential changes by the Human Rights Commission regarding complaint handling from those who are disabled.

14. Farewell

Linda Crabtree announced that she would be resigning from the Accessibility Advisory Committee and that it had been a pleasure to work on the Committee.

Diana Lecinski took this opportunity to thank all members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee for the time and effort they had invested into the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 2:00 p.m. to meet again on Tuesday, March 21, 2006 at 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Committee Room #4.

Linda Crabtree
Co- Chair

Wendy Middleton
Recording Secretary