

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

**REPORT 4-2008**

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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, May 20, 2008, commencing at 12:45 p.m. in Committee Room 4.

**ATTENDANCE**

Committee: Jocelyne Gagne, Chairperson; Jean Bennett, Krystine Donato, Geoff Eden, Ian Greaves, Anita MacKenzie, Mary Lou Whitty, Griz Witlib

Regrets: Councillor Cindy Forester, Diann Krieger, Carol Walker

Staff: Eric Flora, Public Works – Transportation, Diana Lecinski, Accessibility Coordinator; Steve Murphy, Community Services; Catherine O’Leary, Public Health, Penny Pitt, Corporate Services – Clerks

Staff regrets: Janice Emeneau, Joe Gouthro, Birgit Page, Denise Papaiz, Gord Low

Guests: Margaret Sanderson, Brock University and Bob Mahony, DSBN, Renee McKinley (Interpreter)

Jocelyne Gagne welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

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

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

29. Moved by Krystine Donato  
Seconded by Anita MacKenzie

That Agenda 4-2008, being the agenda for the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of May 20, 2008, be approved as amended and that Item 7, Niagara Specialized Transit status and update be deferred to the next meeting.

Carried.

## **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

30. Moved by Ian Greaves  
Seconded by Jean Bennett

That Report 3-2008, being the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of April 8, 2008 be approved as distributed.

Carried.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

31. AODA Built Environment Standards Development Committee – Mr. Bob Mahony, DSBN

Mr. Bob Mahony gave a brief history of how he became involved with the Built Environment SDC and that he thought it was a tremendous opportunity to create greater accessibility. This committee has access to all the building codes of the world, had the ability to override the building code, and was governed by the Human Rights code. The committee's work plan was ambitious with a preliminary plan in place for about one year. He went on to state that there were four task groups working with 90 elements. Jocelyne Gagne thanked Mr. Mahony for the interesting and insightful presentation.

## **ACCESSIBILITY PLAN 2007-2008 – UPDATE**

32. Diana Lecinski reported that all staff had been requested to provide an accessibility plan update relating to the previous years actions and future plans for their specific department's area or initiatives that encompass "all" departments on Section 9 of the Accessibility Plan. Those not in attendance at this meeting are asked to make their presentation at the next RNAAC meeting on July 8<sup>th</sup> and to send their written updates to Steve Murphy. All staff rep reports will not only inform the RNAAC of the Region's progress, but will also be the foundation the next Accessibility Plan. The Accessibility Plan's schedule provides for a draft submission to the RNAAC for review prior to their August meeting in order to go forward to Council in September.

Steve Murphy suggested that the Section 9, of the Accessibility Plan needed to be in hard copy before the next meeting. The "in house training" needed to be addressed with the CMT and a new policy needed to be drafted regarding the training.

Diana Lecinski recommended that Section 8 Table summarizing the past period's success, be taken out of the table format, in order to more clearly define those successes in an easy to read bulleted format. She also applauded the recent staff training arranged by Steve Murphy to ensure that staff have been supported in the usage and implementation of the FADS document when reviewing new and existing Regional sites for good accessibility. The policy, practice and procedure portions relating to Standards are currently being developed. The Region has historically

promoted good and accessible customer service being offered to the public, which provides an excellent foundation when implementing the AODA's Customer Service O.Reg. 429/07. The recognition of details held within this new Regulation will also be incorporated into the next accessibility plan as well.

Catherine O'Leary stated that Section 9 of the Accessibility Plan was going to the SMT and she will forward it to Diana Lecinski.

New employ orientation was discussed with Geoff Eden suggesting that accessibility sensitivity/awareness and customer service training for staff be incorporated into the orientation package. The initiative for providing information regarding this training should be made available on the SHERPA site.

Jocelyne Gagne concluded by stating the focus of the next meeting would be on the updates for the Accessibility Plan.

### **NIAGARA SPECIALIZED TRANSIT (NST) UPDATE**

33. The NST update was deferred to next meeting. Eric Flora reported that there were no changes and the NST was forging on and working with the Transit Authority and the GIS department to create a map to show all transit and specialized transit facilities. The eligibility criteria were to be expanded.

Margaret Sanderson expressed concern for the need for an audible signal at the Brock University crossing on Glenridge. Safety is a concern at this crossing. Eric Flora stated that he would work with Brock University, CNIB and staff to ensure that this is addressed.

### **AODA UPDATE**

34. Geoff Eden stated that he would circulate an electronic "stakeholder draft" of the latest version of the Information & Communication Standard. The commenting deadline is the end of May and members are encouraged to review this draft and respond to Geoff Eden. This is not the final draft or the public feedback version, however Geoff Eden is looking to staff and members for any comments they may have.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

35. Update; Taxi Licensing Public Meeting of April 29, 2008

Diana Lecinski reported that accessibility taxis were the big focus of the public meeting held by the Police Services Board. Seven target areas were included in the proposed amendments to the Licensing By-Law 267-2004.

- Age of Vehicles – Taxicabs
- Para-Transit Quota System
- Mechanical Inspections – Taxicabs
- Flat Rating – Taxicabs

- Amendments to Tow Licensing Fees
- Advertising on Vehicles
- Re-establishment of the Industry Liaison Committee

The next meeting is set for June 12<sup>th</sup> to consider all input and amendments. Letters are still being accepted until this date.

36. Summary of Information Items

Information Items AAC 49-2008 to AAC 65-2008 were reviewed and received.

Carried

**OTHER BUSINESS**

37. Congratulations were extended to Geoff Eden on the successful 2008 Intermunicipal Accessibility Symposium hosted by the City of Welland Accessibility Advisory Committee on May 20, 2008. Many of the presentations are being planned to be linked Welland's accessibility webpage ([www.welland.ca](http://www.welland.ca))

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Ian Greaves and seconded by Jean Bennett that the Committee be adjourned at 2:30 p.m. to meet again on July 8, 2008 at 12:30 p.m. in Committee Room 4.

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Jocelyne Gagne  
Chairperson

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Penny Pitt  
Administrative Assistant  
Council Support