

# Northumberland Accessibility Advisory Committee

## Minutes

September 14, 2023

555 Courthouse Road, Cobourg

By Zoom video conference - 10:00am – 11:30am

**Members present:** Christine Bayer, Hope Bergeron, Stephanie Ash, Bobby-Jo Preston (Chair), John Logel (County Councillor) Andrea Nicholson (staff liaison)

**Regrets:** Bob Robertson, Jason Ducharme, Selena Forsyth,

The meeting was called to order at 10:05am.

### 1. **Welcome / Introductions new member, Councilor John Logel**

Committee members and staff liaison welcomed new committee member County Councillor John Logel. All those present made introductions.

### 2. **Approval of meeting notes from June 8, 2023**

**Moved by** Christine, seconded by Stephanie that the NAAC minutes from the June 8 meeting be approved. **Carried.**

### 3. **Action items and follow-up from June 8, 2023**

There were no actions items from June 8, 2023.

### 4. **New Business**

#### i **Web Accessibility update (Cara)**

- postponed, date to be determined.

#### ii **Terms of Reference (Bobby Jo)**

- Reminder that the NAAC's updated Terms of Reference was approved by Council in July 2023.

#### iii **Committee membership (Bobby Jo)**

- Andrea has contacted Committee members who have been absent more than 3 months without contact. These members have either resigned or have been dismissed from the committee due to lack of response.

- The Committee must have 7-10 members, with people with disabilities making up the majority of members. The Committee currently has 8 members and 5 have identified as having a disability.
- **Action item:** Andrea will send NAAC members a list of members with contact email and phone.

**iv Committee chair**

- Bobby-Jo has agreed to remain in the Chair position for the remainder of 2023. A Chair for 2024 will be decided by the committee at the January 2024 meeting.

**v Multi Year Accessibility Plan Q2 update (Andrea)**

Andrea reported on the progress of the 2023 Accessibility Goals for Q2 (April – June 2023)

**vi International Day of Persons with Disabilities December 3 (Bobby-Jo/Andrea)**

**Moved by** Hope, seconded by John, that the NAAC recommend that County Council proclaim December 3, 2023 as International Day of Persons with Disabilities in Northumberland County.

Andrea reviewed the proclamation request document with the committee.

**Action:** Andrea will arrange for the Proclamation request for International Day of Persons with Disabilities to go to Council in November.

**Action:** Andrea will meet with Communications to discuss awareness messaging for International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

**vii Accessibility Coordinator update (Andrea)**

- **Transit Pilot** – representative from Hop In and the County will attend the October NAAC meeting. Bobby-Jo (Community Care Northumberland) reported that there has been a rapid growth with the Cobourg-Port Hope-Oshawa run this past quarter (approximately 1500 trips per month). Ridership on the regular route has more than doubled in the past quarter. Due to demand, the schedule online has been adjusted so that riders can make full connections.
- **Closed Captions for Council meeting recordings** –The closed captioning system continues to be tested for accuracy.
- **New Universal Forest Trail** – The Woodland Trail’s universal trail is almost complete. Todd Farrell, Natural Heritage Manager will attend the October meeting with an update.

- **Plain Language Workshops** – The County has planned 3 Plain Language workshops for staff which will take place in October and November.
- **AAC Learning and Sharing Forum** – Andrea will be visiting 5 Accessibility Advisory Committees (AACs) within the County to discuss the possibility of, and seek input towards, a County-wide learning and sharing forum for AACs. Andrea reported that the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility is hoping to host a virtual event for AAC in early 2024.

## **5. Adjournment**

The meeting was terminated at 10:52AM

**Next Meeting:** October 12, 2023

**Upcoming 2023 regular meetings:**

- October 12, 2023
- November 9, 2023

No meetings in July, August or December