

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
GREATER NIAGARA CIRCLE ROUTE COMMITTEE

REPORT 3-2011

Minutes of a meeting of the Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee held in Campbell East 101, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Wednesday, September 7, 2011 commencing at 5:03 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Timms (Presiding Chair), Luciani; Mr. Paris; Ms. Senesi; Mr. Vandermaas

Staff: Ms. Tanner, Associate Director, Regional Policy Planning; Mr. Macbeth, Planner; Ms. Dawn, Legislative Assistant.

Other: Mr. Humber, Shorthills Cycling Club; representatives from the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee, Thorold Active Transportation Advisory Committee, Niagara Timber-Line Riders, Niagara Freewheelers; Mr. Snow, Rankin Construction Inc.; Mr. Sauchuk, City of Thorold.

Quorum

There being a lack of ordinary quorum at the meeting, it was determined that the ordinary quorum for the meeting be reduced to five members, pursuant to Section 22.10 of the Procedural By-law 120-2010.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

13. Natasha Dawn, Legislative Assistant, called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee for this meeting being held September 7, 2011.

Moved by Councillor Luciani
Seconded by Mr. Vandermaas

That Councillor Timms be nominated for the position of Chair of the Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee for this meeting being held September 7, 2011.

Ms. Dawn called a second and third time for nominations for the position of Chair of the Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee.

Moved by Councillor Luciani
Seconded by Mr. Paris

That nominations for the position of Chair of the Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee for this meeting being held September 7, 2011, be closed.

Carried.

With the agreement of Councillor Timms, Ms. Dawn declared him Chair of the Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee for this meeting being held September 7, 2011.

Councillor Timms assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

UPDATES

14. Facilitative Review and Strategic Planning Update

Ms. Tanner informed members that the report being prepared by Mr. Tim Dobbie, Tim L. Dobbie Consulting Ltd., respecting the Facilitative Review and Strategic Planning will be available in October.

15. Greater Niagara Circle Route Trail Closures

Committee Members deliberated over alternate routes for the Greater Niagara Circle Route to circumvent the construction occurring along Highway 406. Some suggested detours and safety measures included:

- installing a pedestrian push-button signal light at the Merritt Road and Highway 406 intersection; however, it was noted that the intersection's site lines are extremely poor and construction will be intensifying in that area in the near future resulting in pedestrian and cycling traffic being prohibited
- wording of detour signs must meet the requirements of the risk and claims managers of the involved municipalities.
- extending the unopened road allowance between the northern and southern sections of Hansler Road, then creating a stone path from the southern section of Hansler Road to the Circle Route – Thorold staff to review
- consideration must be given to the users of the trail who are unfamiliar with the local road network
- implement the use of a bus shuttle that will transport users from one section of the trail to the next available open section; shuttle to run every fifteen minutes
- install map signs and have available paper maps of the local road network
- reduce speed limits on roads that will be used in the trail's detour
- some roads in the potential detour areas are narrow and are heavily travelled by vehicular traffic
- should leave the detour route up to the choice of the trail user to avoid liability issues

Moved by Mr. Vandermaas
Seconded by Councillor Luciani

That a small working group be established to determine the best alternate routes for the Greater Niagara Circle Route during the various construction phases of the Highway 406 expansion; and,

That membership of the working group be as follows:

- two representatives from the Greater Niagara Circle Route
- one representative from the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee
- one representative from the Thorold Active Transportation Advisory Committee
- one representative from the Niagara Freewheelers
- staff representatives

Carried.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

16. **Minutes – Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee**
June 8, 2011

Moved by Councillor Luciani
Seconded by Mr. Paris

That the minutes of the Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee meeting of June 8, 2011, be received for information.

Carried.

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUESTS

Staff was requested to:

- investigate the Ministry of Transportation's Environmental Assessment to determine whether it states the Circle Route would remain unaffected by nearby construction (Councillor Timms).

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 6:25 p.m. to meet again on Wednesday, October 19, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. in Committee Room 4.

Councillor Timms
Chair

Natasha L. Dawn
Legislative Assistant

Kevin Bain
Regional Clerk