

Northumberland Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes

Feb 12, 2026

10:00 – 11:30 am

Via Zoom

Members present: Hope Bergeron, Lorraine Gordon, Selena Forsyth (Vice Chair), Stephanie Ash, Mike Gibson, John Logel (County Councillor) Andrea Nicholson (staff liaison)

Regrets: Rae Deschamps (Chair), Bob Robertson, Christine Bayer,
Quorum was confirmed and the meeting was called to order at: 10:01am.

1. Approval of meeting notes from January 8, 2026

Moved by Lorraine, seconded by John that the meeting notes from January 8, 2026, be approved. **Carried.**

2. Action items and follow-up from January 8, 2026

Action item 1: Andrea will announce the nomination period (Feb 4-25) and distribute the 2026 Helping Hands Award nomination forms to County employees via internal website and email. **Completed.**

Action item 2: Andrea will invite Communications to the February meeting to begin discussing an awareness campaign for the 2026 National Access Ability Week (May 31 – June 6). **Completed.**

3. New Business

- i **Accessibility Coordinator's Update** – Andrea reported on the following:

Enhancing Accessible Spaces for Everyone (EASE) grant – The County's 2025 grant application was approved, and we will install assistive listening technology in Council Chambers and in the Provincial Offences Administration courtroom. The project period will be March 1 – September 30, 2026. We have included the NAAC in the project plan for feedback on the project (July 2025 project endorsement) and to complete a walkthrough demonstration of the system and provide user experience feedback (late March-April 2026).

Multi Year Accessibility Plan – The 2022-2025 has been updated and extended to cover 2026.

ii Annual Accessibility Status Report

Andrea reviewed the report and accomplishments and the changes to the updated 2022-2026 Multi Year Plan.

Moved by Loraine, seconded by Mike

That the NAAC endorse the 2025 Accessibility Annual Status Report and updated 2022-2026 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and recommended that Council accept and approve the 2025 Accessibility Annual Status Report and updated 2022-2026 Multi Year Accessibility Plan. **Carried.**

iii National Access Ability Week

Andrea reviewed options for themes provided by Communications with a focus on businesses and inclusive workplaces.

Moved by John, seconded by Lorraine

That the NAAC approve the theme of “Accessible Workplaces: Stronger Communities” for the 2026 National Access Ability Week. **Carried.**

iv November 12, 2026 meeting date conflict

Due to the Remembrance Day holiday, County Council has been scheduled on November 12, 2026, creating a conflict for the November NAAC meeting. Members present agreed that both options for rescheduling (Nov 5 and Nov 26) were suitable.

Action item 1: Andrea will ask the members who were not present which date(s) (Nov 5 or 26) are suitable for rescheduling the November 12 meeting.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was terminated at 11:06am.

Next Regular Meeting: March 12, 2026 (Zoom)