

Northumberland Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes

March 12, 2026

10:00 – 11:30 am

Via Zoom

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

Regrets: Bob Robertson, Christine Bayer, Rae Deschamps (Chair), Stephanie Ash

Guest: Cara Timmermans

Quorum was confirmed and the meeting called to order at 10:02 am.

1. Approval of meeting notes from February 12, 2026

Moved by Selena seconded by Lorraine,

That the meeting notes from February 12, 2026, be approved. **Carried.**

2. Action items and follow-up from February 12, 2026

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. **Completed.**

3. New Business

i National Access Ability Week

Cara reviewed the communications plan for National Access Ability Week with the theme of “Accessible Workplaces: Stronger Communities”.

An event page will be added to the County website which will have information and resources all in one place. Social media stories and postings during the week will lead back to the event page.

ii **Helping Hands Award Nominations & Planning**

There were 2 nominations received. One was a team of 5 employees, and one was an individual employee.

Moved by Selena, Seconded by Mike,

That the NAAC present the 2026 Helping Hands Award to all 6 nominees. **Carried.**

Lorraine and Mike volunteered to read the nominations at the Helping Hands Award presentation. John will say a few words on behalf of Council.

Action item 1: Andrea will invite all nominees, nominators and supervisors of nominees, CAO and Director of Corporate Services to the April 9 NAAC in-person meeting.

Action Item 2: Andrea will prepare Helping Hands Award certificates for signature by CAO and NAAC Chair.

iii **Accessibility Coordinator's Update – Andrea**

- The November meeting will be on November 26, 2026, about half way between the October and January meetings.
- Another Mock Emergency Shelter exercise is being planned for September 17, 2026 at the Cobourg Community Centre. NAAC members are welcome to participate. Details will be available closer to the date.
- Northumberland Emergency Shelter Committee has received 2 of 3 accessibility training sessions based on recommendations made after the last exercise.
 - Overview of AODA and the Integrated Accessibility Standards (January 2026)
 - Accessible Customer Service (March 2026)
 - Nonvisible disabilities (planned for May 2026).

4. **Adjournment**

The meeting was terminated at 10:37am

Next Regular Meeting: April 9, 2026 (in person) 555 Courthouse Road, Committee Room B