

## **MINUTES**

### **Environment & Climate Resilience Infrastructure, Committee (ECRI)**

**Wednesday March 11, 2026, 2:00 PM**

**Niagara Community Centre – Board Room**

#### **In Attendance:**

Ron Simkus – (NOTL RA, Administrator)

\* Steve Hardaker, Liaison (Meeting Chair)

\* Frances Stocker, Chair – Absent

\* Phil Bergen, Secretary

\* Richard Connelly

\* Dr. Rod Tennyson

\* Kip Voegel – Absent

(Committee is still 2 members short of full roster)

### **1. Previous meeting minutes - approved**

Going forward minutes will use the Official Committee name is ECRI as per NOTL RA website.

Environment Climate Resilience and Infrastructure Committee (ECRI)

### **2. Agenda Approval**

Agenda approved with addition of discussion on **Conservation Authority amalgamation**.

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# Key Discussion Topics & Actions

## Transportation Master Plan

Ron and Richard reported on a meeting with Jordan Frost (Director of Engineering Services).

### Key Points

- Previous Transportation Master Plan (2022) will not proceed in its current form.
- The Town will restart development of a new plan.
- **A draft plan is expected for public consultation in summer 2026.**

### Committee Observations

- Previous plan lacked baseline traffic data.
- Master Plan should focus on strategic planning (10–15 year horizon).
- Greater attention needed for **Glendale and St. Davids growth areas.**

### Action

- Committee to **review draft Transportation Master Plan when released** and prepare feedback.

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## Transportation and Visitor Access

### Issues

- Seasonal traffic congestion in Old Town.
- Lack of alternative transportation options for visitors.

### Ideas Discussed

- Seasonal **park-and-ride lots** near town entrances.
- Potential **parking and shuttle service behind Shaw Festival lands.**
- Use of **Glendale commuter parking lot** as transportation hub.
- Shuttle loop connecting:
  - Old Town
  - Glendale
  - wineries
  - tourist destinations
- Coordination with regional tourism transportation networks.

## Action

- Committee to develop **transportation alternatives discussion paper**.
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# Stormwater Management

## Issues

- Flooding and drainage problems in **St. Davids**.
- Ongoing construction and stormwater handling concerns.

## Update

- Town acquired land for stormwater retention facility.
- Major modifications planned to improve system performance.
- Town reviewing outdated **Municipal Engineering Standards**.

## Action

- Arrange future meeting with Town engineering staff and local stakeholders.
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# Regional Infrastructure

## Issues Identified

- Niagara Falls wastewater treatment plant operating near capacity.
- Significant regional infrastructure deficit (estimated **\$1.5B+**).
- Drinking water supply reliability concerns in some areas.

## Discussion

- Infrastructure concerns have become part of the broader **municipal amalgamation debate**.

## Action

Gather updated regional infrastructure information for committee review.

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# Environmental Issues

## Former DND Lands

- Jurisdiction transferred from Parks Canada to Niagara Parks.
- Environmental constraints include **protected cliff swallow habitat**.
- Passive uses such as trails may be possible.

## Action

- Monitor any Niagara Parks development proposals.
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# Other Business

## Conservation Authority Amalgamation

- Ontario government considering consolidation of 36 conservation authorities around Lake Ontario to 9 Regional Conservation Authorities
  - For NPCA it would be included in the new Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority. It would be made up of the Credit Valley CA, Halton Region CA, Hamilton Region CA and Niagara Peninsula CA .
  - Committee will monitor implications for watershed management and municipal planning.
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Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm

# Next Meeting

Scheduled for **April 21, 2026 at 2:00 PM- Board Room at the NOTL Community Center.**