



**Niagara Escarpment Commission**  
An agency of the Government of Ontario

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**FINAL MINUTES OF M851/01-2026**  
**NIAGARA ESCARPMENT COMMISSION**  
**VIRTUAL**  
**(Georgetown office and Microsoft Teams)**  
**January 21, 2026**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

J. Chevalier, L. Golden (joined at 10:40 am), L. Kiernan, G. Krantz, D. McKinlay, D. Measures, D. Nielsen, R. Palmer, L. Price, R. Vacca (Chair), A. Witteveen.

**REGRETS**

M. Francis, G. Little.

**STAFF PRESENT**

S. Carey, J. Isaac, S. Robinson, J. Sperling, S. Dobbyn, J. Kowalski, R. Burns, L. Wang, A. Bochenek, J. Olah.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** 9:30 a.m.

Chair Rocco (Rocky) Vacca presided.

## INTRODUCTIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair welcomed the participants to the meeting. He noted there is no update on the initiation of the coordinated plan review. He will be meeting with the minister and will discuss the coordinated plan review and the status of filling the vacant commissioner appointments.

The Chair announced the passing of former Niagara Escarpment Commission Chair and Commission member Joan Little on January 13, 2026, at the age of 92. She was a passionate protector of the Niagara Escarpment and served for many years on the commission starting as Chair on February 14, 1986 to August 31, 1996, and she was appointed as a commission member in March of 2004 and was reappointed until April of 2017. Current commissioners who worked with her on the commission in the past commented on her dedication to upholding the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act and the Niagara Escarpment Plan. She also dedicated 15 years of her life to serving on the councils of both Burlington and Halton and was a long-time columnist, and conservationist.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair read the Land Acknowledgment.

## DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

The Director thanked commissioners and staff for pivoting to a virtual-only meeting format. He introduced Dan Thompson, Manager, Program Services, who will be in the position while Melody Cairns is on secondment. He advised that he continues to be in contact with the ministry on the status of the coordinated plan review initiation and vacant commissioner appointments.

## BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

No business arising.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

**M851R1/01-2026**

Moved By: Nielsen

Seconded By: Price

*"That the Commission approve the November 20, 2025, Commission Minutes M850-11-2025, as written."*

**Motion Carried**

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST – Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

CLOSED SESSION

**M851R2/01-2025**

Moved By: Krantz

Seconded By: Measures

*"That the Commission enter into closed session."*

**Motion Carried**

**M851R3/01-2026**

Moved By: Measures

Seconded By: Witteveen

*"That the Commission reopen the meeting to the public."*

**Motion Carried**

C1

**NIAGARA ESCARPMENT COMMISSION**  
**2026 Revised Commission Meeting Schedule**

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The Director presented the revised 2026 meeting schedule, noting the revised schedule includes a December meeting in place of the January 2027 meeting to address the notification conflicts and a change to the June meeting to June 25, 2026.

**M851R4/01-2026**

Moved By: McKinlay  
Seconded By: Witteveen

*“That the Commission adopt the revised 2026 meeting schedule.”*

**Motion Carried**

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Information only Items**

- G1** Director Approvals and Dashboards for months of NOVEMBER and DECEMBER 2025
- G2** Appeals and Hearings update as of DECEMBER 31, 2025
- G3** Plan Amendments Status update as of DECEMBER 31, 2025
- G4** Director’s Report for the months NOVEMBER and DECEMBER 2025

**M851R5/01-2026**

Moved By: Price  
Seconded By: Nielsen

*“That the Commission accept Consent Agenda items G1, G2, G3 and G4.”*

**Motion Carried**

NOTE:A Commissioner asked about high volume of appeals. The Director noted that appellants are often neighbours of the subject properties and commented that the NEC is one of only a few government entities that continue to have an appeal process.

## NEW BUSINESS

D1

### **Town of Caledon Request for a Delegation at the February 19<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting**

The town of Caledon submitted a letter on January 20, 2026, requesting the opportunity to attend a future meeting to seek the Commission's endorsement to amend Ontario Regulation 826, to remove the portion of Inglewood subject to Urban Amendment 54 from the Area of Development Control.

The Director advised that delegating to the commission is not a requirement for this process and that the town can submit the request directly to the minister for a decision. The minister is responsible for amending the Regulation.

#### **M851R6/01-2026**

Moved By: McKinlay

Seconded By: Kiernan

*"That the Commission approve a delegation from the Town of Caledon at the February 19, 2026 Commission meeting."*

#### **Motion Carried**

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D2

### **Niagara Escarpment Development Permit Application N/R/2022-2023/493**

#### **Deferral Request**

A request was received from the agent for application N/R/2022-2023/493 requesting additional time to provide the legal opinion requested at the November 2025 meeting as per motion M850R8/11-2025:

*"That Development Permit Application N/R/2022-2023/493 be referred to the February 2026 Commission meeting to provide time for the applicant to seek a legal opinion on the effective date on which the lot was created. The legal opinion must be provided to NEC staff by February 1, 2026, to be considered at the February 2026 meeting."*

**M851R7/01-2026**

Moved By: McKinlay

Seconded By: Measures

*"That the Commission grant the applicant a deferral to the May 21, 2026, Commission meeting and that the legal opinion on the effective date on which the lot was created is to be provided to NEC staff by May 1<sup>st</sup> for consideration at the May meeting."*

**Motion Carried**

ADJOURNMENT

**M851R8/01-2026**

Moved By: Witteveen

Seconded By: Palmer

*"That this meeting be adjourned."*

**Motion Carried**

**Time of Adjournment:** 12:50 p.m.



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Rocco (Rocky) Vacca

Chair