

Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee (EAAC) was held on Friday, September, 25, 2020 in the Shaheen meeting room of the Essex Centre Sports Complex, 60 Fairview Avenue West, Essex, Ontario.

Chair, Richard Kokovai welcomed the new member in attendance to the committee and called the meeting to order at 9:37 AM.

1. Roll Call

Present: Richard Kokovai, Chair
Lisa Wallace, Vice-Chair
Claudette Gauthier
Julia Welch
Fern Walsh

Also Present: Doug Sweet, Director, Community Services/Deputy CAO
Jeff Morrison, Director, Corporate Services/Treasurer
Janice Aloisio, Committee Secretary

Regrets: Councillor, Sherry Bondy
Geraldine Dozois
Ron McDermott
Breanna Caverhill

2. Introductions of New Member Fern Walsh

- The Chair, Richard Kokovai welcomed new committee member Fern Walsh;
- Ms. Walsh provided the committee with a brief introduction of herself and her interest in the committee.

3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

- There were no declarations of conflicts of Interest.

4. Adoption of Published Agenda

- a. Regular Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee Agenda for September 25, 2020

Moved by: Lisa Wallace

Seconded by: Julia Welch

(EAAC20-09-008) That the published agenda for the Friday, September 25, 2020, regular meeting of the Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee be adopted as circulated. **“Carried”**

5. Adoption of Minutes from February 20, 2020

- a. Regular Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes for February 20, 2020

Moved by: Lisa Wallace

Seconded by: Julia Welch

(EAAC20-09-009) That the minutes of the regular Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held February 20, 2020, be adopted as circulated. **“Carried”**

6. Old Business

- a) **Community Awareness Project Partnership with Essex District High School and Kingsville District High School**

- Following committee discussion on the partnership, it was decided that due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, that this initiative would be postponed until May of 2021 which would further provide the committee with sufficient time to reach out to other local municipalities to garner their interest in hosting a similar initiative within their respective municipality;

- Mr. Sweet will speak with the Town Clerk regarding the current Youth Council Representatives and to obtain contact information from the areas local municipalities to have a letter sent to them sharing the plan and partnership initiative and assess their support and interest in potentially doing a similar event in their respective community in the coming year(s).

b) Committee's Multi-Year Plan Working Initiatives

- Due to the current pandemic, items within our current plan may be delayed or extended to a later date than initially defined in the Multi-Year Plan.

7. New Business

a. Essex AAC and other Local Municipalities in the County – Richard Kokovai

- Mr. Kokovai indicated that due to current limitations and restrictions, this may be a good time to reach out to the local municipalities and accessibility advisory committees and have an information sharing session;
- Ms. Walsh, through her introduction, further indicated that she is currently a member on the County Accessibility Committee;
- Mr. Sweet will follow up with the Town Clerk to obtain contact information and the Chair offered to take the lead and initiate a conversation on sharing information on various projects our committee are undertaking and ascertain sharable information other committee's may have.

b. ERCA John R. Park Homestead Visitor's Centre discussion – Richard Kokovai

- The Chair, Mr. Kokovai brought up his concerns that he addressed in comments to the planner with respect to the circulation of the site plan control application of ERCA for the Visitor's Centre at John R. Park Homestead particularly the lack of accessible access to the planned visitor's centre and the Homestead's other

exhibits and out buildings as access is all currently stone and very difficult to navigate with a walker or wheelchair;

- Committee discussion was had;

Moved by: Lisa Wallace

Seconded by: Julia Welch

(EAAC20-09-010) That Council support a letter being sent to ERCA regarding the accessibility issues as it pertains to the John R. Park Homestead and the new visitor's centre with a request that either paved or packed stone walkways be laid throughout the Homestead grounds to better accommodate those with accessible needs and requirements as well as the designated handicap parking spot. **"Carried"**

c. Rick Hansen Foundation Update – Richard Kokovai

- No update

d. Referral of Development Projects to Essex AAC for Comment – Richard Kokovai

- The Chair, Mr. Kokovai, reminded committee members that this committee is a statutory committee under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act and of their legislative responsibility to review and submit comments on site plan control applications;
- Mr. Sweet advised that he will invite either the Town's Planner or Planning Assistant to attend a future meeting to further explain their roles with the town and the importance that the committee members comments as they pertain to site plan control applications.

e. Request for Consideration of Accessibility Improvements on County Road 8 between Talbot Street and Highway 3 – Update – Richard Kokovai

- Committee discussion was had on the subject;

- Mr. Sweet advised that town administration also have this on their radar with the potential future development of residential developments and sub-divisions in that area in the next couple of years;

Moved by: Julia Welch

Seconded by: Lisa Wallace

(EAAC20-09-011) That Council support a letter being sent to the County of Essex asking for paved sidewalk access on County Road 8 from Talbot Street to Highway 3 to better facilitate accessing the local restaurants and businesses by those walking, in particular, those with an accessible challenges or difficulties. **“Carried”**

f. Application to become a Youth Accessibility Leader under the Youth Innovation Component of the Enabling Accessibility Fund – Lisa Wallace, Vice-Chair

- Lisa Wallace, Vice-Chair, came across this application and brought it forward to the committee for discussion and support as it would be beneficial to have a youth member sign up to become a Youth Accessibility Leader and may potentially lead to a project being funded through the governments Enabling Accessibility Fund;
- Following discussion by the committee, Mr. Sweet advised he would reach out to the Town Clerk and assess the interest of the either of the Town’s youth council representatives, failing any interest to complete the application by either of them, Jeff advised that he has a student working in his department that may be interested in completing the application.

Moved by: Lisa Wallace

Seconded by: Claudette Gauthier

(EAAC20-09-012) That the committee support one of the Town’s Youth Council Representatives in the completion of the Youth Accessibility Leader application prior to the October 30th application deadline. **“Carried”**

8. Correspondence

- a. That Site Plan Control Application SPC-02-20 and SPC-04-20 be received as circulated and that any comments be directed directly to the Manager, Planning Service as indicated in the two applications.

9. Next Meeting Date

- The next meeting date is on Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 10:30 am at the Essex Centre Sports Complex in the Shaheen meeting room.

10. Adjournment

Moved by: Lisa Wallace

Seconded by: Julia Welch

(EAAC20-09-013) That this meeting adjourns at 10: 20 am. **"Carried"**

Richard Kokovai, Chair

Janice Aloisio, Secretary