

Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

An in-person meeting of the Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee (EAAC) was held on Wednesday, October 28, 2020 in the Shaheen meeting room of the Essex Centre Sports Complex, 60 Fairview Avenue West, Essex, Ontario. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and current restrictions in place, the meeting was open to the public with social distancing and other public health guidelines in place however, no public members attended.

Chair, Richard Kokovai welcomed the new member in attendance to the committee and called the meeting to order at 10:32 AM.

1. Roll Call

Present: Richard Kokovai, Chair
Lisa Wallace, Vice-Chair
Geraldine Dozois
Claudette Gauthier
Fern Walsh

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

Delegate: Jason Pillon, Assistant Deputy Fire Chief/Fire Prevention and Public Education

Regrets: Councillor, Sherry Bondy
Julia Welch
Ron McDermott
Breanna Caverhill
Jeff Morrison, Director, Corporate Services/Treasurer

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

- There were no declarations of conflicts of Interest.

3. Delegate: Jason Pillon, Assistant Deputy Fire Chief/Fire Prevention and Public Education

- Jason Pillon spoke to the committee members present about the new Fire Station being built on County Road 15 in the Town of Essex and the various accessible and other key features it will have along with providing the floor plan and layout for the new station.
- The Chair thanked Jason Pillon for his presentation and he left the meeting at 10:45 am.

4. Adoption of Published Agenda

- a. Regular Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee Agenda for October 28, 2020

Moved by: Claudette Gauthier

Seconded by: Geraldine Dozois

(EAAC20-10-014) That the published agenda for the Wednesday, October 28, 2020, regular meeting of the Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee be adopted as circulated. **“Carried”**

5. Adoption of Minutes from September 25, 2020

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

Moved by: Fern Walsh

Seconded by: Lisa Wallace

(EAAC20-10-015) That the minutes of the regular Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held September 25, 2020, be adopted as circulated. **“Carried”**

6. Old Business

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

- No update reported;
- Project will be on hold until further notice.

b) Committee's Multi-Year Plan Working Initiatives

- No update;
- Bring forward to next month agenda.

7. New Business

a. Essex AAC and other Local Municipalities in the County

- Fern Walsh advised that the Essex County Advisory Committee will be sending out an invitation to the neighbouring County municipalities in the near future to arrange for a joint membership meeting with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the county accessible advisory committees.

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

- Doug Sweet advised that Council received and supported the Committee's recommendation from the September meeting and that the Clerk's department send a letter of support to ERCA regarding providing either a paved or packed stone walkway through John R. Park Homestead and the new visitor's centre to provide better accessible access to the planned visitor's centre and the Homestead's grounds;
- Upon completion of a letter, a copy will be circulated to the committee through the secretary.

c. Rick Hansen Foundation Update

- No update

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

- Doug Sweet advised that Council supported the Committee's September meeting's recommendation to have the Clerk's office send a letter to the County of Essex recommending a paved sidewalk access on County Road 8 from Talbot Street North to Highway 3 to better accommodate those with mobility challenges to provide better access to the restaurants and businesses in that area;
- Upon completion of the letter, the Secretary will circulate a copy to the membership.

e. Application to become a Youth Accessibility Leader under the Youth Innovation Component of the Enabling Accessibility Fund – Doug Sweet

- Doug Sweet advised that the application will be completed prior to the deadline by either the Town's Youth Council representative or by the Treasury department's student and notice will be provided to the committee through the secretary upon completion;
- Committee members had a brief discussion on projects that may be submitted for a grant application such as screenings around the current ball diamonds to provide better accessibility for those with walkers or in wheelchairs.

8. Correspondence

- None

9. Next Meeting Date

- The next in-person meeting date is on Wednesday, November 25, 2020 at 10:30 am at the Essex Centre Sports Complex in the Shaheen meeting room.

10. Adjournment

Moved by: Lisa Wallace

Seconded by: Geraldine Dozois

(EAAC20-10-016) That this meeting adjourns at 11: 10 am. **“Carried”**

Richard Kokovai, Chair

Janice Aloisio, Secretary