



The Corporation of the Town of Essex

Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

November 1, 2024, 9:30 am
60 Fairview Ave W, Essex, ON N8M 1B6

Present: Vice Chair - Oakley, Beth
Member - Kurt Schroeder
Member - Parker, Linda
Member - Pacuta, Michael
Member - Kokovai, Richard
Member - Currie, Sherri
Member - Lauzon, Tara
Councillor - Allard, Brad, Ward 3

Also Present: Rodney Klie, Manager, Parks and Facilities
Janice Aloisio, Administrative Assistant, Community Services

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request. Please contact the Clerk's Office at clerks@essex.ca or 519-776-7336 extension 1100 or 1101.

1. Call to Order

2. Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that this land is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations (comprised of the Ojibway, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi Peoples), and of the Huron-Wendat Peoples. We value the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original Peoples of Turtle Island who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial.

3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No declarations of Conflict of Interest came forward.

4. Adoption of Published Agenda

4.1 Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda for November 1, 2024

EAAC-24-11-027

Moved By Tara Lauzon

Seconded By Linda Parker

That the published agenda for the November 1, 2024, Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting be adopted as presented.

Carried

5. Adoption of Minutes

5.1 Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes for September 6, 2024

EAAC-24-11-028

Moved By Richard Kokovai

Seconded By Sherri Currie

That the minutes of the Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held September 6, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

6. Nomination of Committee Chair

Nominations for the Accessibility Advisory Committee Chair position for a 1 year term.

EAAC-24-11-029

Moved By Sherri Currie

Seconded By Councillor Allard

That Beth Oakley be the Chair of the Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee for 2025.

Carried

7. Nomination of Committee Vice Chair

Nomination of Committee Vice Chair for a 1 year term.

EAAC-24-11-030

Moved By Beth Oakley

Seconded By Linda Parker

That Sherri Currie be the Vice-Chair of the Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee for 2025.

Carried

8. Unfinished Business

8.1 Co-An Park Request for Partial Funding of Stage Access

Rodney Klie, Manager, Parks and Facilities will update the committee on Co-An Park request for partial funding of stage ramp access.

Manager Klie advised the Committee that following the last meeting where the Committee voted in favour of supporting half the price of the project for the installation of a ramp leading to the current stage at the Co-An Park that upon further inspection of the stage, it was determined that the entire stage would need to be replaced as well as an installation of a ramp.

Having no current monetary numbers available with respect to the cost of a new stage and ramp for Co-An Park, Committee members, after further discussion, agreed to put their funding support on hold until such time as a value of the funding request is available from the Co-An Park Committee.

EAAC-24-11-031

Moved By Richard Kokovai

Seconded By Sherri Currie

That once the Co-An Park Committee provides more concrete details with written costs associated with a new stage with accessible ramp access for Co-An Park, the Committee would re-visit the request for funding.

Carried

9. Correspondence

EAAC-24-11-032

Moved By Linda Parker

Seconded By Kurt Schroeder

That the correspondence listed under item number 9 be received as circulated.

Carried

9.1 110-14 Talbot Street, Essex Pre Consultation

9.2 155-175 King Street, Harrow - Proposed Commercial Development

Committee Members discussed requesting that Council direct Town Administration send a letter to the current owner of the existing property at 175 King Street and ask that delineated accessible parking be designated and signage provided.

And further, the Committee would like it noted in the minutes that comments were sent in to the Planning Department on the circulation of the proposed commercial development for 155 - 175 King Street requesting that the proposed development have designated accessible parking at each end on both side of the proposed development to provide adequate accessible access to any business in the commercial development.

EAAC-24-11-033

Moved By Richard Kokovai

Seconded By Tara Lauzon

That Council direct Town Administration to send a letter to the current owner(s) of 175 King Street asking for delineated accessible parking to be designated with proper signage at the current commercial property.

Carried

9.3 County of Essex letter dated September 17, 2024

9.4 33 Talbot Street, Municipal office expansion plan

9.5 Hunter Park Improvements Plan

9.6 Harrow Parking Lot Design

10. New Business

10.1 Essex County Accessibility Advisory Fest-for-All Event Update

Manager, Parks and Facilities, Rodney Klie will provide the committee with an update of the September Festival.

Manager, Klie provided a congratulatory thank you to the members who attended the event and provided their assistance to the County of Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee and further advised that the event was very well attended and was a very successful event likely to become an annual event.

10.2 Committee Project Proposal

Member, Kurt Schroeder will present a potential project.

Member, Kurt Schroeder brought forward an ongoing issue he continues to face with local municipal businesses. A number of local businesses have either no available 'accessible' access or limited public 'accessible' access to their business locations for members of the public who are required to use ambulatory devices to get around. As a user of ambulatory devices, he provided a recent incident at a local business wherein they had a very heavy access door that he found very challenging to attempt to get in this business and was looking for recommendations or solutions.

Committee Members held discussion and moved forward with a motion to council for consideration.

EAAC-24-11-034

Moved By Kurt Schroeder

Seconded By Sherri Currie

That the Committee recommend to Council that they consider reinstating and implementing the Community Improvement Program (CIP) with a priority grant subsidy for local businesses to implement and install and facilitate accessible access into their businesses.

Carried

10.3 Preliminary 2025 Meeting Schedule of Committee

Committee to choose the schedule of meetings, including time and location for the coming year.

Manager, Parks and Facilities Rodney Klie provided the following meeting schedule for the committee to adhere to in 2025 and provided the following dates and locations for the meetings.

1. February 7, 2025 - Harrow and Colchester South Community Centre
2. May 2, 2025 - Essex Centre Sports Complex
3. August 8, 2025 - Colchester Community Centre
4. November 7, 2025 - McGregor Community Centre

Mr. Klie further informed the committee members that at each of the meetings a site tour of each of the facilities would be conducted to assess each location and provide any recommendations on accessible issues and concerns as brought forward by the membership.

10.4 EAAC Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2024-2029

Status update of current plan and discussion on report to council of 2024 progress

Manager Klie advised the committee that a review of the EAAC Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2024-2029 requires an annual review and update with a report to Council.

Mr. Klie advised that he will be compiling and presenting a report to council in the new year as it pertains to the Committee's progress.

10.5 Accessibility for Ontarians With Disabilities Act - Toolbox subscription

Manager, Klie advised that the Recording Secretary will sign committee members up to their email list to receive updates as the Ontario government oversees the Act and this site will provide current relative information to our members.

11. Adjournment

EAAC-24-11-035

Moved By Michael Pacuta
Seconded By Sherri Currie

That the meeting be adjourned at 10:38 am.

Carried

12. Future Meetings

12.1 December 6, 2024

Colchester Community Centre 9:30am

The meeting is to be cancelled due to lack of agenda items

Chair

Recording Secretary