



Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2021, 10:30 AM

Location: Electronic Meeting

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.

Present: Lisa Wallace, Chair

Fern Welsh, Co-Chair

Richard Kokovai

Geraldine Dozois

Ron McDermott

Also Present: Doug Sweet, Director, Community Services/Deputy CAO

Janice Aloisio, Recording Secretary

Regrets: Julia Welsh

Jeff Morrison, Director, Corporate Services

Sherry Bondy, Council Representative

Absent: Claudette Gauthier

1. **Call to Order**

The Chair, Richard Kokovai called the meeting to order at 10:37 AM

2. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest noted at this time.

3. **Nomination of Committee Chair**

The Chair, Richard Kokovai asked for nominations for the election of a new committee chair for the 2021 year;

Lisa Wallace was nominated by the current Chair, Richard Kokovai

A call for any further nominations was made with no further nominations coming forward;

Lisa Wallace was asked if she accepted the nomination for the committee Chair for the year ahead;

Lisa Wallace accepted the nomination for Chair for 2021;

Lisa Wallace took over the meeting

4. **Nomination of Committee Co-Chair**

Chair, Lisa Wallace called for nominations for the Committee Co-Chair seat;

Committee member Richard Kokavai nominated Fern Welsh;

A call for any further nominations was made with no further nominations coming forward;

Committee member, Fern Welsh was asked if she accepted the seat of Co-Chair;

Fern Welsh accepted the nomination for Co-Chair for the 2021 meetings;

5. **Adoption of Published Agenda**

5.1 **Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda for April 14, 2021**

EAAC21-04-001

Moved by Geraldine Dozois

Seconded by Fern Welsh

That the published agenda for the April 14, 2021 Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting be adopted as presented.

Carried

6. **Adoption of Minutes**

6.1 **Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for November 25, 2020**

EAAC 21-04 -002

Moved by Richard Kokovai

Seconded by Ron McDermott

That the minutes of the Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting held November 25, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

7. **Unfinished Business**

7.1 **Update regarding Promotion Campaign of the Town's Community Improvement Plans (CIP), Its Accessibility Component and Dates**

Promotional material was distributed to local businesses by Councillor, Sherry Bondy and former committee delegate, Deb Fournier providing them with information on the availability of CIP funding for accessible entrance modifications, etcetera and advising that funding lapses at the end of this year.

7.2 Update regarding Cranberry Court Curb-cut and sidewalk connection

Mr. Sweet advised that through discussions with management in the Operations Department that this is under investigation but there is an issue currently as the town does not own both of the abutting property to complete this; and Committee will be updated further as any information comes available through the Director of Community Services/Deputy CAO.

7.3 Update regarding Handicap Assessable Ground-Markings in front of Harrow and Colchester South Agriculture building

Mr. Sweet advised that he has been advised from management in the Operations Department that the ground markings will be added to their list of signage to be completed and forecasts that the ground markings, weather permitting, should be completed by the end of May, 2021.

7.4 Update regarding town staff training through Athabasca University for the Introduction to Accessibility in the Built Environment – Accessible Space 101 Course

Mr. Sweet advised that Rita Jabbour, Manager, Planning Services and Paul Vlodarchyk, Building Inspector, both completed and passed the above training offered through Athabasca University and Manager, Jabbour acknowledged that the course had some very beneficial information in it.

7.5 Update by Vice-Chair on County-Wide Accessibility Virtual Meeting on March 11, 2021 with minutes emailed to members

Chair Lisa Wallace advised that the meeting was beneficial to get everyone together for collaboration.

Ms. Wallace advised that the Town of Essex is doing very well with achieving and completing goals even with COVID restrictions as some other municipalities have not even met for either in person or virtual meetings through the pandemic.

Lisa Wallace further relayed information on a county-wide information sharing project that will collect data from all County ERCA trails on their accessibility component and will require a call for volunteers to go to various trails throughout the county and evaluate them and submit the information; and further information on the City of Windsor app NaviLens which is a very powerful QR code to assist people who are low vision or blind by directing them to the desired location. This pilot project is planned for the City of Windsor Transit system and could be expanded to other applications including trail markings. This system is supported by iPhone and Android and appears to be a low maintenance, cost effective system.

7.6 Update regarding Town of Essex Facility Accessibility Design Standard Document

Mr. Sweet advised that the Summer Administrative Assistant will be working with the Building Services Department on the document and is forecasting a draft for committee review by no later than August of this year.

7.7 Update regarding Enabling Accessibility Fund Grant Application – Youth Innovation

Mr. Sweet advised that the town has received confirmation that the Enabling Accessibility Fund grant was approved and the accessible doors at the Essex Centre Sports Complex will receive \$10,000 towards funding the replacement of one set of doors in the front lobby area and that in total, the Essex Centre Sports Complex will end up getting all six doors completed prior to the fall of this year.

7.8 Update regarding letter of support dated December 11, 2020 from the Chair to the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility for an Inclusive Community Grant

Mr. Sweet advised that this was a letter of support for the grant application for the accessible kayak – boat lift and it was not successful.

7.9 Update regarding Rick Hansen 2021 Virtual Conference by Richard Kokovai

Richard Kokovai provided the committee with a brief update on the two day virtual conference he attended virtually in March and will provide the committee with notes prior to the May meeting;

Richard highlighted an app that utilizes a phone to control pedestrian light signals for individuals instead of having to use the button which may serve very well for those facing accessibility challenges and further highlighted how the pandemic has demonstrated some of the challenges able bodied persons found difficult while those with accessible issues face these issues and challenges on a regular basis.

8. Correspondence

8.1 Notice of Site Plan Control SPC-02-20 regarding 1100 Ridge Road, Colchester South received via email on November 27, 2020 for comments;

8.2 Notice of Minor Variance Application A-01-21 regarding Kennedy Funeral Home Ltd. (Agent: Tony DeRyk) 128 Talbot Street North, (Essex Centre, Ward 1) together with Committee of Adjustment regular meeting agenda distributed via email on February 22, 2021 for comments;

8.3 Notice of Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw Amendment (Town of Essex) received via email on March 4, 2021 for comments;

8.4 Notice of Site Plan Control SPC-01-21 regarding 3990 North Malden Road, received via email on March 22, 2021 for comments;

8.5 Committee of Adjustment Agency Package of April 20, 2021 meeting received via email on March 25, 2021 for comments;

8.6 County of Essex Trail Assessment Project - ECAAC

8.7 AMO Policy Update – Access of Persons with Disabilities to Sport/Recreational Facilities during COVID-19 and Greenbelt Consultation.

EAAC 21-04 -003

Moved by Geraldine Dozois

Seconded by Richard Kokovai

That Agenda Items 8.1 through and inclusive of item 8.7 be received.

Carried

9. New Business

9.1 Lisa Wallace regarding resource link

Chair Lisa Wallace had a link circulated as produced by the Retail Council of Canada named EnAbling Change for Retailers: Make your Store Accessible which should be added to the town's website to assist local businesses, further discussion to be had a next month's meeting.

9.2 Lisa Wallace regarding AccessNow App

Chair Lisa Wallace provided the committee with information regarding an app called AccessNow that the town and any local business can submit their business and promote their accessible features.

Mr. Sweet advised that he will forward to the Manager Strategic Communications and the Economic Development Officer and get their thoughts and report back to the committee at the next meeting.

9.3 Lisa Wallace regarding Nominations for David C. Onley Award for Leadership in Accessibility

Chair Lisa Wallace advised she put in a nomination form nominating the committee for all the accomplishments and achievement made by the committee.

EAAC 21-04 -004

Moved by Geraldine Dozois

Seconded by Richard Kokovai

That the new business listed in Agenda Item 9 be received.

Carried

10. Next Meeting

Dates and times for a meeting next month were discussed by the committee.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 11:00 AM either virtually via Zoom.

11. Adjournment

EAAC 21-04-04

Moved by Richard Kokovai

Seconded by Geraldine Dozois

That the meeting be adjourned at 11:16 AM

Carried

Chair

Recording Secretary