



Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 9, 2017

3:00 pm

Committee Room E

Essex County Civic Centre, Upper Floor

360 Fairview Avenue West, Essex, ON, N8M 1Y6

Phone: 519-776-6441; TTY Telephone (Toll Free): 1-877-624-4832

Committee Members: Christine Easterbrook, Chair
Gord Queen, Vice Chair
Therese Lecuyer
Charles Wimperis
Debbie Alexander
Rosemary Cobby

Absent: John Boyko

Administration: Renée Trombley
Katherine Hebert

1. Recording of Attendance

It was noted that Mr. Boyko was absent.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no conflicts of pecuniary interest declared.

3. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

In accordance with section 5.3 of the Terms of Reference:

A Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall be elected from committee members on an annual basis at the first meeting of the year to preside over meetings and committee business.

The Chair opened the floor for nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair for the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee for the year 2017.

Mr. Queen nominated Ms. Easterbrook for the position of Chair of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee. Mr. Wimperis seconded the nomination.

There were no other nominations for the position of Chair.

Ms. Easterbrook accepted the nomination for the position of Chair.

Ms. Cobby nominated Mr. Queen for the position of Vice-Chair of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee. Mr. Wimperis seconded the nomination.

There were no other nominations for the position of Vice-Chair.

Mr. Queen accepted the nomination for the position of Vice-Chair.

The Chair closed the election period.

4. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the December 8, 2016 ECAAC Meeting.

1-2017

Moved By Ms. Lecuyer

Seconded By Mr. Wimperis

That the minutes of the December 8, 2016 meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee be adopted as presented.

Carried

5. Delegations and Presentations

There were no delegations present.

6. Communications

6.1 Correspondence

2-2017

Moved By Ms. Alexander

Seconded By Mr. Wimperis

That the correspondence for the February 9, 2017 meeting be received.

Carried

6.1.1 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Alliance

View recent online versions of Accessibility News from the [Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Alliance \(AODA Alliance\)](#)

6.1.2 Ontario Accessibility Standards

[December 2016 AODA Toolbox](#)

The Chair noted that the AODA toolbox contained a reminder for the compliance report and its due date in 2017. Further the toolbox lists the requirements for the report.

6.1.3 Ontario Human Rights Commission

Media Release - Putting Rights at the Centre: OHRC to Release [New Strategic Plan](#)

6.1.4 Mashable Article - December 16, 2016 (Matt Petronzio, Author)

1. [Google Maps Now Finally Tells You When a Business is Wheelchair Accessible](#)

2. [Virtual March Makes Women's March More Accessible to People With Disabilities](#)

IT was noted that the new Google Maps accessibility tool is active in the United States only at the present time, but could be a good item to share on Facebook or in the newsletter.

6.1.5 Huffington Post - Article December 12, 2016 (Danielle S. McLaughlin, Director of Education Emerita, Canadian Civil Liberties Association)

[It's Time Canadians Started Practicing Systemic Inclusion](#)

6.1.6 42 Hire - Article December 6, 2016 (Debra Guckenheimer, Author)

[Ten Ways to Make Conferences Accessible to People with Disabilities](#)

6.1.7 Blackburn News - January 6, 2016

[Uber Criticized After Woman With Service Dog Denied Service](#)

6.1.8 Canadian Hearing Society (CHS)

Volume 4, Issue 1 - January 2017

6.1.9 Ministry of Children and Youth Services

News Release - Helping More Children and Youth Access Mental Health Services - January 25, 2017

6.1.10 The New York Times

Opinion Pages - The Non-Politics of Disability By Jay Ruckelshaus

6.1.11 crippledscholar.com

When Accessibility Gets Labeled Wasteful - March 4, 2016

7. Reports and Questions

8. Unfinished Business

9. New Business

9.1 Terms of Reference

Review of the existing Terms of Reference of the ECAAC.

Ms. Trombley noted that there were some minor language changes within the Terms of Reference that would be corrected to reflect administrative changes. Additionally, if any of the committee members had comments or concerns related to any item in the Terms of Reference, this can be considered.

The Chair briefly went through the Terms of Reference with the committee.

Mr. Queen raised the issue of frequency of meetings, since the ECAAC is mandated only to meet quarterly but meets more frequently on a monthly basis, it is good that the committee is exceeding the requirement. Some municipal committees don't meet as frequently. He further noted that the definition of 'disability' was noted in the Terms of Reference.

The Chair noted that the composition of the committee is laid out within the document, and commented that the members seem to be embracing their roles.

Ms. Trombley indicated that the Terms of Reference would be updated and circulated to the committee for further comment and adoption.

9.2 County of Essex Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2013-2017

Existing Plan - A broad level review and discussion on the updates to be considered for the revised Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

The Chair noted that the County of Essex has implemented beyond what is required by the legislation at this point.

Ms. Trombley indicated that when considering the County website, there is one standard left to be implemented by January 1, 2021 under the WCAG requirements and the County is currently compliant to the AA Standard.

Discussion took place with regard to accessibility compliance within the County facilities and opportunities for suggesting proactive changes that facilitate accessibility, but are above and beyond what is required by legislation.

Further suggestions can be noted and submitted to Mr. Maisonville. Additionally, it was noted that Sun Parlor Home is planning some renovations for accessibility and general maintenance.

Mr. Queen questioned whether the County currently offered the software 'Browsealoud' on its website?

It was noted that the County's main site does not have the tool, but it is currently used on the Library site.

Ms. Trombley discussed the overall plan and how each department of the County may approach revising their sections to meet the plans within their department. Each department may have a slightly different approach to accomplishing their accessibility goals over the next 5 years.

The Chair questioned whether it was the role of the committee to review and make suggestions as far as the County policies are concerned?

Ms. Trombley indicated that the committee is welcome to review and revisit the County's accessibility policies.

Mr. Queen noted that the Accessibility Plan Review should probably be at a somewhat higher level and not include the detail that the initial plan included. He suggested that the plan include future goals for accessibility compliance and vision for the future and not necessarily how to proceed with accomplishing each goal.

9.3 Access Awareness Week

Discussion took place with regard to the revitalizing of the annual wheelchair basketball undertakings. It was noted that Ms. Alexander was part of a 'Hero's Basketball' event and Mr. Boyko has been an integral part of past wheelchair basketball events. It was further noted that further discussion on the matter would be suggested at upcoming meetings.

The Chair requested that the committee (through administration) reach out to local municipal committees to gain understanding and information on what their activities have been and what is planned for each. This contact typically happens at the beginning of each year. Further, perhaps some coordination will be possible among committees for National Access Awareness Week in June.

Discussion took place with regard to the Accessibility Committee's Facebook page. It was noted that the committee members will all be given author access so that articles and links can be posted by any member of the group. It was further discussed that the committee should come up with a set of standards for posting that would limit the potential for inappropriate content being included. The ECAAC page is active, but a formal 'launch' will be in conjunction with the County of Essex Facebook page, later this spring.

The Chair led the discussion with regard to AAK YAK and its streamlining. It was noted that with the onset of the Facebook page, that AAK YAK moving forward, would solely feature the activities of the region's accessibility committees.

Ms. Trombley indicated that there can be some training scheduled with the committee members who feel they need some instruction on the use of social media and posting to Facebook, if necessary.

9.4 Health Care Worksheet

Mr. Wimperis brought forward a draft of a Health Care Worksheet, which was discussed by the group in 2016. He noted that the intention would be to facilitate the medical visit by having a reference sheet of items that need to be discussed. A survey to poll the medical community would be ideal before proceeding with the form.

It was noted that Mr. Wimperis' form would be transcribed and circulated to the committee for comment.

9.5 Robert Schmidt

It was noted that former Essex County Council member, and Leamington Mayor Rob Schmidt passed away. He was a member of the Accessibility Committee for several years.

10. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the ECAAC is scheduled for March 9, 2016 at 3:00 PM.

11. Adjournment

3-2017

Moved By Mr. Wimperis

Seconded By Ms. Alexander

That the February 9, 2017 meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee be adjourned at 5:00PM.

Carried