



## **Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, May 9, 2019  
3:00 pm  
Essex County Civic Centre, Room E  
360 Fairview Avenue West, Upper Floor  
Essex Ontario N8M3G4**

Committee Members: Debbie Alexander  
Christine Easterbrook, Chair  
Brad Frenette  
Diana Kirkbride  
Therese Lecuyer  
Gord Queen  
Fern Walsh

Administration: Katherine Hebert  
Renée Trombley

### **1. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05PM.

### **2. Recording of Attendance**

The Chair noted that all members of the ECAAC were present.

### **3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no conflicts of pecuniary interest declared.

### **4. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, April 9, 2019 meeting minutes.

**10-2019**

**Moved By** Gord Queen

**Seconded By** Debbie Alexander

That the minutes of the April 9, 2019 meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee be adopted as presented.

**Carried**

**5. Delegations and Presentations**

There were no delegations present.

**6. Communications**

Discussion took place regarding the Communications items from the agenda. It was noted that the AODA Toolbox was particularly informative and the consultations period for the provincial government as it relates to autism is now open.

**11-2019**

**Moved By** Therese Lecuyer

**Seconded By** Brad Frenette

That the correspondence for the May 9, 2019 meeting be received.

**Carried**

**6.1 AODA Alliance**

News Updates

**6.2 Government of Ontario**

Ontario Autism Consultations Now Open

**6.3 Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility**

AODA Toolbox April 2019

**6.4 The Windsor Star**

Volunteers are helping change what it is to be blind

**6.5 The Peterborough Examiner**

Ask, don't assume, what people with accessibility issues need

**6.6 Toronto.com**

Toronto accessibility campaign calls for removal of barriers

**6.7 The Hive.com**

Kids with disabilities can enjoy new universally-accessible playground in Surrey

**7. Unfinished Business**

### **7.1 County Council Delegation**

June 5, 2019 at 7 p.m.

The Chair led discussion regarding the ECAAC delegation at County Council on June 5, 2019.

It was noted that YourTV (Cogeco Cable) broadcasts the Essex County Council meeting live, on Cable 11 and the program is often replayed a few times after the initial broadcast.

The Chair gave a brief outline of the process for delegations at County Council for the new members.

### **7.2 Accessibility Awareness Walk**

Ms. Trombley to provide an update.

Ms. Trombley provided an update on the options for the Accessibility Awareness Walk for 2019. She noted that as discussed, the Vollmer centre has adequate facilities and the option of walking inside the building if inclement weather should arise.

Mr. Queen advised that in the future there may be the option of the Cottam Park, but due to the persistent rain this spring the track will not be ready for this year's walk.

The Committee decided to plan the event for September 14, 2019.

Ms. Trombley noted that arrangements would be made for rental of the Hydration Station from the City of Windsor again this year.

Ms. Alexander advised that she would discuss the event date with Paul J. for his DJ services as well.

### **7.3 Speaker - Mr. Lepofsky**

Ms. Trombley to provide an update.

Ms. Trombley provided an update to the Committee regarding the possibility of having Mr. Lepofsky as a guest speaker for local municipal council and staff. Discussions proved fruitful and Mr. Lepofsky is keen on accommodating a speaking engagement in our community in the fall.

### **7.4 Service Animal Discussion**

## 2019-05-09 ECAAC Meeting Minutes

Ms. Walsh raised an inquiry regarding service/support animals and their training/certification process.

The Chair advised that there are two ways that service providers can tell whether or not a customer's animal is a service animal:

- It is visibly apparent that the customer requires the animal for reasons relating to disability, or;
- The customer provides an identification card, or a letter from a healthcare practitioner, confirming that the customer requires the animal for reasons relating to a disability.

Service animals have training to perform specific tasks for people with disabilities. Emotional support animals provide comfort and security. However, they do not have training for specific tasks. Therefore, emotional support animals do not qualify as service animals under the AODA. Service providers are not required to allow support animals on their premises. Providers may ask for proof that a customer's animal is a service animal, unless it is visibly obvious that the person has a disability and is relying on the animal. For instance, if a dog is clearly guiding a customer who is blind, providers should know without asking that this animal is a guide dog.

All service providers must welcome service animals, with a few food-related exceptions. Some places, such as food manufacturers, may be exempt from allowing service animals in certain areas. However, sometimes a customer who uses a service animal may want or need to access a location that the public can enter but where service animals are not legally permitted. In these instances, service providers must offer alternative accommodations so that the customer can access the service usually offered in that location. Providers may serve the customer in a location open to the animal. Alternatively, providers may serve the customer in the location where the animal is not allowed. In this situation, the animal may rest in a different area while a staff member performs the animal's usual tasks.

All service providers that operate premises open to the public, or to third parties that serve the public, must welcome service animals. They must allow customers with disabilities to keep their service animals with them anywhere they need to go, except in places where the law excludes service animals. Under the Customer Service Standard of the AODA, service providers' policies must state that they welcome service animals. Service

animals are animals, typically dogs, trained to help people with disabilities maintain independence.

### **7.5 Facebook**

The Chair noted that Mr. Frenette's mini-bio had been uploaded to Facebook and it has been well received with lots of likes.

It was discussed that Ms. Walsh would prepare a mini-bio for the next month.

Ms. Walsh advised that she has some information and photos from the ParaSport expo to post online.

Ms. Alexander advised that promotion of the Heros Basketball Game would be usefull int he coming weeks.

## **8. Reports and Questions**

## **9. New Business**

### **9.1 ParaSport Ontario - Debrief**

Ms. Walsh to provide an update.

Ms. Walsh provided a summary of her experience attending the ParaSport Expo. She noted that although the event was marketed for accessibility, most activities seemed focused on people without disabilities attempting to participate as if they had disabilities. There was a lot of information available and demonstrations. One takeaway was that the organizers (ParaOntario, ParaSport) were using students as volunteers to assist with this event.

### **9.2 People-first language**

Description

The Chair discussed 'People First' language and examples of this. She noted that the idea behind People First language is to make the focus on the person and not on the disability.

### **9.3 Role of the Committee**

Mr. Frenette raised some concern over the level of participation of this Committee in the lower tier municipalities. He noted that he would like to see more community involvement by the Committee.

The Chair noted that collaboration is ideal with any event that the ECAAC undertakes, and it is the intention to continue that in

## 2019-05-09 ECAAC Meeting Minutes

the upcoming events. The Chair also noted that local municipal AACs would be much more involved in accessibility for their municipalities, whereas the County AAC performs a bit differently, in terms of promoting awareness and access.

### **9.4 Winter Snow Removal**

Mr. Frenette would like to communicate with the public, the need for snow removal on sidewalks.

The Chair made a note of the concern and suggestion for the fall.

Ms. Trombley advised that the ECAAC could do a Facebook campaign around this issue.

### **10. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting date of the ECAAC is scheduled for Thursday, June 13, 2019 at 3 p.m.

### **11. Adjournment**

**12-2019**

**Moved By** Therese Lecuyer

**Seconded By** Debbie Alexander

That the May 9, 2019 meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee be adjourned at 4:25PM.

**Carried**