



Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, February 11, 2021
3:00 pm
Online Attendance Only**

Committee Members: Debbie Alexander
Christine Easterbrook, Chair
Brad Frenette
Rachel Jewell
Diana Kirkbride
Gord Queen, Vice Chair

Absent: Fern Walsh

Administration: Katherine Hebert
Danielle Dunlop

1. Call to Order

Christine Easterbrook called the meeting to order and welcomed the group.

2. Recording of Attendance

Fern Walsh was noted as absent. All other members of the committee participated in the meeting via video conferencing from alternate remote locations.

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no conflicts of pecuniary interest declared.

4. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2021 - Minutes of the ECAAC Meeting

08-2021

Moved By Gord Queen

Seconded By Rachel Jewell

That the minutes of the January 14, 2021 meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee be adopted as presented.

Carried

5. Delegations and Presentations

There were no delegations or presentations.

6. Communications

09-2021

Moved By Gord Queen

Seconded By Debbie Alexander

THAT the correspondence listed on the regular agenda for February 11, 2021, be received and any noted action approved.

Carried

6.1 AODA Alliance Updates

[What's New?](#)

6.2 Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility

February 2, 2021 - [News Release: Ontario Continues Accelerated Vaccinations of Most Vulnerable Despite Vaccine Delays](#)

Christine Easterbrook expressed her disappointment with the vaccination plan for the vulnerable sector.

6.3 Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility

February 3, 2021 - [News Release: New Core Services for Children in the Ontario Autism Program](#)

6.4 Accessibility Standards Canada

Call for proposals for the Advancing Accessibility Standards Research program - [March 25, 2021 deadline for applications](#)

6.5 EnAbling Change Program Ontario

Deadline March 26, 2021 - The EnAbling Change Program is a shared-cost transfer payment program providing funding to not-for-profit organizations, industry organizations, and professional associations to educate their stakeholders about accessibility, drive cultural awareness about the value and benefits of accessibility, and support regulatory compliance. [Details online](#)

6.6 Abilities.ca

[Creating accessibility allies and environments for all abilities- Benjamin Rempel](#)

6.7 David C. Onley Award for Leadership in Accessibility

[Nomination deadline extended](#)

6.8 TechCrunch News

February 3, 2021 - [Evinced raises \\$17M to speed up accessibility testing for the web](#)

6.9 CBC News Manitoba

February 6, 2021 - [The deadly danger of ableism in health care during a pandemic](#)

6.10 ABC News Washington DC

February 6, 2021 - [DC rapper Warren 'WAWA' Snipe performing national anthem in ASL at Super Bowl LV](#)

6.11 United Nations - Department of Economic and Social Affairs

February 16, 2021 - [Webinar RE Online Global Dialogue on Digital Inclusion for All](#)

Description:

The event gathers high-level technical experts, as well as representatives of Governments, civil society, academic institutions and the private sector to discuss the urgency of addressing digital inclusion for all.

6.12 Brain Injury Association of Windsor Essex County

[February 3, 2021](#) - Anna Jurak, Executive Director of the Brain Injury Association of Windsor and Essex County addressed County Council on February 3, 2021, to seek support of a request of the provincial government to issue directives to Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) Directors and Administrators so they are able to provide financial assistance for basic virtual support including, but not limited to, Internet charges, for those in receipt of ODSP and OW who specifically request it. Council was in support of this request.

7. Unfinished Business

7.1 Social Media Updates

What's new with:

- [ECAAC Facebook](#)
- [@EssexCountyAAC](#) on Twitter

Christine Easterbrook advised that regional accessibility progress updates were recently shared on Facebook.

The group discussed sharing recent updates about John R. Homestead, and committed to bringing resources and articles forth at the next meeting.

7.2 Essex County Trails Accessibility Assessment Project

Sample data collection tool for Phase 1 of the trails project.
[Essex County Hub](#)

Cathy Paduch, GIS Technician for the County of Essex, provided information on 'Survey 123', a system for creating electronic data collection tool for mobile devices. Ms. Paduch provided a demonstration of the tool, which the group will utilize on the Trails Accessibility Assessment Project. The tool will assist the ECAAC and community participants in collection data and feedback on the accessibility of the trails in the region.

The group committed to reviewing the data collection tool and providing input at the next meeting.

7.3 Meeting of the Local Accessibility Advisory Committee Chairs & Vice Chairs

Chair to discuss suggestions from the ECAAC for the March 11, 2021 Agenda

RSVPs

- Essex, Leamington, Tecumseh, Amherstburg, Kingsville, LaSalle

Agenda Suggestions to date:

- Communication among local AACs
- Mandate of AACs (General discussion of official mandate from Province and what local AACs are doing.)

- Municipal Parks – Are AACs making recommendations for municipal park equipment/trails/parking/facilities?
- Local Trails – Accessibility Assessment and Data Collection Project
- Accessible Public Transportation (Discussion on what is available within each locally, and throughout Windsor-Essex County municipalities.)
- Accessibility Standards Documents for each municipality - [Example from Windsor](#) (Lisa Wallace)
- Any other items...to be received by February 25th.

Christine Easterbrook discussed the items to be brought forward on the agenda for the meeting of the local AAC Chairs and Vice Chairs on March 11, 2021.

8. Reports and Questions

There were no reports for consideration.

9. New Business

9.1 Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan

Gord Queen provided feedback and information on the Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan, and noted the importance of the Plan and the information sessions and survey intended to gather information and ideas to shore up the plan itself.

The Committee agreed to share the Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan call for feedback on their social media accounts and to participate in the sessions and survey where possible.

10. Next Meeting Date

The meeting of the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the local AACs is scheduled for March 11, 2021 at 3:00PM.

The next meeting of the ECAAC will take place on April 8, 2021 at 3:00PM.

11. Adjournment

10-2021

Moved By Brad Frenette

Seconded By Diana Kirkbride

That the February 11, 2021 meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee be adjourned at 3:43 PM.

Carried