



Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, May 13, 2021
3:00 pm
Online Attendance Only**

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

Administration: Katherine Hebert
Crystal Sylvestre

1. Call to Order

Commencement 3:00 PM.

2. Recording of Attendance

All members of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee were present virtually.

2.1 Introduction of New ECAAC Member

Christine Easterbrook introduced and welcomed new member, Stephanie Olewski. Ms. Olewski is also member of the Town of Kingsville Accessibility Advisory Committee. She works for the Town of Kingsville as well, in the Legislative Services Department. Ms. Olewski helps ensure their documents are accessible and this work has inspired her participation in the Committees.

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no conflicts of pecuniary interest declared.

4. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2021 Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

15-2021

Moved By Gord Queen

Seconded By Stephanie Olewski

That the minutes of the April 8, 2021 meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee be adopted as presented.

Carried

5. Delegations and Presentations

There are no delegations scheduled for May 13, 2021.

6. Communications

16-2021

Moved By Gord Queen

Seconded By Brad Frenette

THAT the communications listed on the regular agenda for May 13, 2021, be received and any noted action approved.

Carried

6.1 AODA Alliance Updates

[What's New?](#)

6.2 AODA Toolbox

[Monthly Updates](#)

6.3 Ontario Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility

April 27, 2021

- [Newsroom: Accessibility Standards Advisory Council Welcomes New Chair Matthew Shaw](#)
- [Backgrounder Members of the Accessibility Standards Advisory Council](#)

6.4 Accessibility Standards Canada

[Making Canada Accessible - Join Us! May 31, 2021 - Virtual Meeting.](#)

6.5 National AccessAbility Week 2021

May 30 to June 5, 2021 - [Disability Inclusion: Leaving No One Behind](#)

The ECAAC will be providing County Council with a presentation regarding the WE (Windsor-Essex) Check The Trails project as part of AccessAbility Week 2021.

6.6 Emergency Preparedness Week in Canada

May 2 - 8, 2021

- [Federal Information](#)
- [Provincial Information](#)

6.7 Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)

- [Virtual Program Offerings](#)
- [Newsroom](#)

Halton Region has launched a pilot project for way finding initiative at their hospital in Oakville. This application is designed for people with no or low vision. It is a free and downloadable app to help navigate the hospital.

Brad Frenette has had positive experiences with CNIB and applauds this organization in their efforts. The CNIB assisted Brad in setting up his iPhone with assistive technologies.

6.8 Bradford Today

[Five ways to challenge systemic ableism during Autism Acceptance Month](#)

6.9 Nike Go FlyEase

February 5, 2021 - [Slate Article](#)

[Promotional Video](#)

Nike has developed a hands-free, accessible shoe.

7. Unfinished Business

7.1 #WECheckTheTrails

Discussion regarding communication strategy and next steps.

The Chair noted that the ECAAC has been making great progress towards introducing their new accessibility initiative, WE

(Windsor-Essex) Check the Trails. This initiative will be launched during AccessAbility Week, May 30- June 5, 2021.

The ECAAC has received a letter from ERCA in support of this new project and are excited about this partnership to provide a barrier free experience for all users.

A promotional campaign has been developed with the County of Essex Communications Department to amplify the project awareness in the community. Thanks and kudos to member, Rachel Jewell for creating the appropriate and catchy hashtag, #WECheckTheTrails which has become the project title and will be used in all social media.

The ECAAC will provide a Delegation to County Council about the new project at the May 19, 2021 Regular Council Meeting.

7.2 Social Media

What's New with:

- ECAAC Facebook
 - Brad Frenette has shared article about device being made by St. Clair College graduates for visually impaired. The device beeps when a person gets close to an object.
- @EssexCountyAAC Twitter

Communications campaign for the #WECheckTheTrails initiative is expected to bolster social media activity.

8. Reports and Questions

There were no reports or questions to discuss at the May 13, 2021 ECAAC Meeting.

9. New Business

There was no new business to discuss at the May 13, 2021 ECAAC Meeting.

10. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the ECAAC is scheduled for June 10, 2021 at 3:00PM.

11. Adjournment

17-2021

Moved By Brad Frenette

Seconded By Diana Kirkbride

That the May 13, 2021 meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee be adjourned at 3:25 PM.

Carried