



Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 14, 2022

5:00 PM

Online Attendance Only

Committee

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

Absent: Brad Frenette

Administration: Katherine Hebert, Deputy Clerk
Dee Blais, Executive Assistant to the CAO

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

2. Land Acknowledgement Statement

We begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibway, Odawa and Potawatomie Peoples.

To recognize the land is an expression of gratitude to those whose territory you reside on, and a way of honouring the Indigenous people who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial.

We value the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all the Original Peoples of Turtle Island.

3. Recording of Attendance

The Chair and committee members attended the meeting remotely from various locations via an electronic meeting platform. It was noted that Brad was absent.

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no conflicts of pecuniary interest declared.

5. Adoption of the Minutes

Minutes of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting, dated June 9, 2022

Moved By Gord Queen

Seconded By Stephanie Olewski

That the minutes of the June 9, 2022 meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee be adopted as presented.

Carried

6. Delegations and Presentations

There were no delegations and presentations scheduled for July 14, 2022.

7. Communications

Moved By Diana Kirkbride

Seconded By Rachel Jewell

That the Communications items listed on the ECAAC Agenda for July 14, 2022 be received, and any noted action taken.

Carried

7.1 Social Media Updates

- Facebook
- Twitter

The Chair advised that she continues to post information from the ECAAC page, and asks that if anyone has something to contribute or share, to pass it along. Stephanie advised that she would be in touch shortly with regard to election information RE accessibility. The Twitter page has been active with sharing information regarding the recent speaker event and the WECTT campaign, in addition to routine tweets and shares from the County of Essex and partners.

7.2 LTGO - On-Demand Transit

[Municipality of Leamington - Public Transit](#)

The Municipality of Leamington has launched LTGO on-demand transit service which replaced its previous fixed-route service. Buses are dispatched on a request basis.

7.3 AODA Alliance

[What's New in Our Campaign?](#)

7.4 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act

[AODA New Summer Resources Online](#)

7.5 Ontario Ministry of Health

News Release - July 8, 2022 - [Ontario Expanding Access to Lifechanging Treatment for Cystic Fibrosis](#)

7.6 Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Appointed Ministers for 43rd Parliament - [Minister for Seniors and Accessibility, Hon. Raymond Sung Joon Cho](#)

7.7 Government of Canada

[Accessibility Standards Canada - Roadmap to 2040](#)

Roadmap to 2040 sets out a rough timeline for developing accessibility standards across Canada, so standards are uniform and everyone knows what the expectations are across the country.

7.8 Inclusion Canada

June 20, 2022 - [Canadian Disability Organizations Host Event at the United Nations](#)

The purpose of this event was to raise awareness about the disparity of treatment of people living with disabilities compared with those who do not have disabilities in Canada.

7.9 Municipal Elections in Ontario

Municipal elections are coming this fall! Are you thinking of representing your area? The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has some guidance for you.

- [2022 Voters' Guide](#)
- [2022 Candidates Guide](#)

The deadline to file your candidacy forms, to run for Mayor, Deputy Mayor or member of Council, with the Municipality, is August 19, 2022.

The deadline to file your nomination is 2 pm on August 19, 2022. You will need 25 nominations in order to run for municipal councillor.

7.10 Global Initiative for Inclusive Information Communication Technology (G3ict)

[Daily Headlines in Accessibility](#)

8. Unfinished Business

8.1 'No Barriers, No Problem'

Post-event follow-up discussion on the 'No Barriers, No Problem' speakers' forum.

Feedback was received after the 'No barriers, No problems' speakers' forum and from the comments received everyone seemed to have really enjoyed both Julie and Michael's presentations. These presentations were very eye-opening and provided an out-of-scope perspective to many, especially those who haven't had exposure to the barriers facing people living with disabilities.

Future sessions could be done over the virtual platform since it enabled anyone in the world to attend. What was missing, as is with most virtual events, is mingling and personal interactions. Online was more flexible, and it was easy to see and hear the person speaking. If we host online again, we may enable certain chat functions to engage the audience more readily, or possibly consider only having one presenter.

We will consider having both speakers back for future events or workshops.

In the end, this event was a great success, we had 55 people join online, some logging in from out of the region. It is great being at the forefront of accessibility and getting the Essex County AAC name out there again as leaders.

8.2 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Review

Review of all feedback submissions for the MYAP.

Kate shared the feedback that was received from the public through the online form and social media comments regarding the MYAP. One specific item that came out of the response was in regards to emergency procedures. A focus on emergency planning geared to those who have accessibility needs is a

specific item we need to plan for at the County. People with assistive devices, technology-related items, mobility issues, and medications all require backup plans in shortage situation, loss of power or other resources, or in worst-case scenario emergencies.

The committee went over the MYAP draft, to review any further updates or changes that need to be made. There is a clause included at the end of the schedule under 'other actions' that the strategic asset management plan incorporates accessibility considerations into any future or planned investment in corporate assets.

The final document will be brought to the committee in September for review. Council will have the opportunity to consider and may approve the final version at a subsequent meeting.

9. Reports from Administration

9.1 2022 ECAAC Budget

Report from Katherine Hebert, Deputy Clerk, regarding the status of the 2022 ECAAC Budget, year-to-date

Review of the 2022 budget after a few major events, accessibility flag and 'No Barriers, No Problem' speakers forum.

There may be adequate funds remaining that the Committee could purchase another bench along the trails. It was noted that a capital purchase such as benches would require County Council approval, since it is not in the typical scope of the ECAAC, and it was suggested that a letter be drafted and sent to County Council for consideration.

Administration will get a quote for one additional bench from ERCA, and should the quote be within budget, pending Council approval, the ECAAC may be able to proceed. Again, with the installation of a bench, promotion and communication regarding its location can take place.

Moved By Diana Kirkbride
Seconded By Gord Queen

That a letter requesting County Council to authorize an expenditure from the ECAAC 2022 budget funds to purchase one bench to be placed on the ERCA Greenway Trail in the southern portion of the County, in the Kingsville area.

Carried

9.2 ECAAC Activities for 2022

This Month:

- July 14, 2022 - ECAAC Meeting
- COE Accessibility Policy Review
- MYAP Review and Draft by ECAAC

Next Month:

- August 11, 2022 - ECAAC Meeting
- MYAP Review and Draft by ECAAC (If Needed)

Every summer the ECAAC takes one month off, and it was brought forward to not meet in August since things are slowing down and the MYAP is almost complete.

The next meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee is scheduled to take place in person on September 8, at John R Homestead Park in the early afternoon.

It is typical that committee members be present at the final meeting of County Council, so they can be recognized for their service throughout the term. The final County Council meeting for the 2018-2022 term is October 19, 2022.

The final meeting for the ECAAC is scheduled for October 13, 2022.

Moved By Gord Queen

Seconded By Diana Kirkbride

That the ECAAC cancel the scheduled August 11, 2022 meeting.

Carried

10. New Business

10.1 Accessibility Policies - Review

[County of Essex Accessibility Policies - Review by ECAAC](#)

Discussion took place with regard to the County's accessibility policies. It was noted that an audit from the Ministry was performed for the County in 2020/2021 and at that time the

policies were reviewed and changes were made as recommended.

The ECAAC reviewed the policies that were shared in the agenda package. No comments were made at this time, but it was noted that should anyone have a comment in the future, they can reach out to discuss.

It was further noted that the annual policy review is something that can be shared on social media, with links to the documents online.

11. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee is scheduled to take place on September 8, 2022 and will be held at John R. Park Homestead in the early afternoon. There is no August meeting.

12. Adjournment

Moved By Stephanie Olewski

Seconded By Diana Kirkbride

That the July 14, 2022 meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee be adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Carried