



Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 3, 2023

5:00 PM

**Essex County Civic Centre, Room E
360 Fairview Avenue West, Upper Floor
Essex Ontario N8M3G4**

Committee

Members:

Debbie Alexander, Vice Chair
Sherri Currie
Rachel Jewell
Diana Kirkbride
Julie Miles
Dennis Sanson, Chair
Kimberly DeYong, Deputy Mayor - Town of Kingsville

Administration:

Katherine Hebert, Manager, Records and
Accessibility/Deputy Clerk
Crystal Sylvestre, Coordinator, Legislative and
Community Services

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:08 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

All members of the Committee attended in person in at the Essex County Civic Centre, Room E.

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no conflicts of pecuniary interest declared.

5. Adoption of the Minutes

Minutes of the ECAAC Meeting, dated June 1, 2023

Moved By Kimberly DeYong

Seconded By Debbie Alexander

That the minutes of the June 1, 2023 meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee be adopted as presented.

Carried

6. Delegations and Presentations

There were no Delegations or Presentations for August 3, 2023.

7. Communications

Moved By Debbie Alexander

Seconded By Julie Miles

That the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee receive the communications listed.

Carried

7.1 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)

[AODA Toolbox Latest News and Archives](#)

7.2 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Alliance

[AODA Alliance - What's New in Our Program?](#)

7.3 AODA Canada

[Latest Headlines and other resources](#)

8. Unfinished Business

8.1 2023 ECAAC Workshop October 19, 2023

The venue for the event is the Heritage Park Alliance Church in LaSalle, ON.

Committee discussed and provided direction for confirming the following speakers:

- Canadian Mental Health Association
 - Sonia McMahon-Comartin, Greif Counsellor, would speak to the impacts of grief on family, friends and coworkers

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- Community Living Windsor Essex County
 - Shelbey Pillon, Career Compass, would speak to Accessible Employment opportunities and would invite an employer and employee to speak to their lived experience in the program
- Sawchuk Accessible Solutions
 - Julie Sawchuk would speak to her lived experience and advocacy efforts towards more accessible built environments.

Discussion included that the workshop would be one full day at a cost of \$70 per person including lunch. Registration would be through the County forms platform to reduce costs and allow for electronic payments.

County Communications would be involved in developing the save the date, the invitation, program and event signage.

Committee members would circulate the event registration through as many channels as possible and Administration would connect with local municipal partners to ensure their AACs are aware of the date.

If information tables are included at the fall workshop, they would include community partners, no private businesses. (Community Living, EWEMS, County of Essex, Red Cross, CMHA, March of Dimes etc.)

Laura Bakes would provide the catering for the day.

Julie Miles would provide Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities (AODA) customer service training to group.

The day would end with a mock inspection of the venue led by Julie Sawchuk to demonstrate the process of identifying barriers in a facility.

The ECAAC would meet virtually on August 17, 2023 to confirm additional plans.

Moved By Kimberly DeYong

Seconded By Julie Miles

That the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee direct Administration to reserve Julie Sawchuk.

Carried

8.2 WE Check The Trails

Committee discussed following a similar communications plan for Phase 3 of the project.

County Communications would be asked to take promo photos in early fall.

9. Reports from Administration

9.1 2023 ECAAC Workplan

Katherine Hebert provided the August update of the ECAAC Workplan. Katherine highlighted the following opportunities:

- The first-floor renovations of the Civic Centre were schedule to be completed by the September or October meeting. The ECAAC would do a walk through during one of those meetings.
- Emergency Management week is May 7-13, 2024. Invite County Emergency Management to provide their departmental update during the May 2, 2024 meeting.
- Policy review would be included in upcoming agendas to meet committee obligations for the calendar year.

10. New Business

There were no New Business items brought forward on August 3, 2023.

11. Next Meeting Date

As Special meeting of the ECAAC will be held virtually On August 17, 2023 at 5:00 PM to confirm details of the Fall Workshop.

The next meeting of the ECAAC is scheduled for September 7, 2023 at 5:00PM in Council Chambers.

12. Adjournment

Moved By Debbie Alexander

Seconded By Sherri Currie

That the August 3, 2023 meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee be adjourned at 7:07 PM.

Carried