



Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 4, 2024

5:00 PM

Sandbar Waterfront Grill

930 Old Tecumseh Rd, Belle River, ON N0R 1A0

Committee Members:	Debbie Alexander, Vice Chair Sherri Currie Kimberly DeYong, Deputy Mayor - Town of Kingsville Rachel Jewell Julie Miles Dennis Sanson, Chair
Absent:	Diana Kirkbride
Administration:	Katherine Hebert, Manager, Records and Accessibility/Deputy Clerk Crystal Sylvestre, Coordinator, Legislative and Community Services

1. Notice Regarding the Location of the ECAAC Meeting

The April 4, 2024 meeting of the ECAAC was held immediately following an on-location site visit to the WE Check The Trails Phase 3 location, in the Municipality of Lakeshore. No livestream was possible from the offsite location.

2. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:25 PM.

3. Land Acknowledgement Statement

We acknowledge the land on which the County of Essex is located is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibway, Odawa and Potawatomie Peoples.

We specifically recognize Caldwell First Nation and other First Nations which have provided significant historical and contemporary contributions to this region.

We also value the contributions of all Original Peoples of Turtle Island, who have been living and working on this land from time immemorial.

4. Recording of Attendance

The Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee members attended in person at the Sandbar Waterfront Grill, Lakeshore, Ontario.

Diana Kirkbride was absent.

5. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no conflicts of pecuniary interest declared.

6. Adoption of the Minutes

Minutes of the March 7, 2024 meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting.

Moved By Kimberly DeYong

Seconded By Sherri Currie

That the minutes of the March 7, 2024 meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee be adopted as presented.

Carried

7. Delegations and Presentations

There were no delegations or presentations for April 4, 2024.

8. Communications

Moved By Julie Miles

Seconded By Debbie Alexander

That items listed on the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting agenda, as items 8. Communications, be received and that any noted action are taken.

Carried

8.1 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)

[AODA Toolbox Latest Edition and Archives](#)

8.2 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Alliance

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

8.3 Accessibility Standards Canada

- Virtual Tour of [Accessibility Standards Canada offices: a model of accessibility](#)

8.4 Accessibility News

- [CNIB News](#)
- [Autism Ontario News](#)

8.5 Headlines

- CBC Nova Scotia: [Halifax looks to improve accessibility rules around construction sites to avoid pedestrian injuries](#)

8.6 AccessNow App

Map Mission Day 2024 - [AccessNow](#)

9. Unfinished Business

9.1 ErieShores Health Care Visit

The ECAAC was invited to attend an onsite tour of ErieShores Health Care (ESHC), Leamington, Ontario on March 25, 2024.

Dennis Sanson and Debbie Alexander attended the tour along with Katherine Hebert and Crystal Sylvestre from Administration.

Other attendees included the ESHC Accessibility Advisory Committee; Peter Best, City of Windsor AAC; and ESHC Facilities Staff.

Discussion included that some features in the building are original to the 70-year-old healthcare facility, therefore limiting some of the options to fully renovate the spaces. The facilities team was committed to making improvements or alterations wherever possible.

The tour included a walkthrough of the new MRI suite that was nearly complete and included many accessible features such as a large examination and procedure room, an accessible washroom, and automatic entrances. Plans were being made to harmonize and update signage throughout the building including textured surfaces to indicate transitions, blade signs, high contrast signage, wayfinding devices and colour coded areas.

As originally built, the facility has different grade entrances that enter and exit the building on different floors. The team was working on a solution to best communicate the locations of entrances and exits.

The current Cafeteria was unstaffed for periods of the day. During these periods, the area was self serve with a touch screen to facilitate purchases. Peter indicated that touch screens can be a barrier to people who are blind or have low vision.

Some suggestions included implementing a screen that has voice prompts or offering a device to allow people to ask for assistance.

9.2 WE Check the Trails - Phase 3

Photos were taken of the Committee on the Phase 3 section of trail at Old Tecumseh Road.

A News Release and Social media blitz will be done during AccessAbility Week.

9.3 Accessibility Festival Planning Update

Administration will continue to gather information for a potential site to host the festival and report back to the committee at the May meeting.

10. Reports from Administration

10.1 2024 ECAAC Workplan

The Committee Review the Workplan for April and updated May to include AccessAbility Week events and the delegation before County Council.

10.2 ECAAC Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference were updated to refresh titles, other housekeeping notes and include more inclusive language. No notable procedural changes were suggested.

The document was ready to be approved by Essex County Council at the May 15, 2024 meeting.

11. New Business

11.1 Essex County Civic Centre Renovations

Crystal Sylvestre explained that the floor plans for the renovations were available and would be shared with the Committee electronically.

Committee members were invited to review the plans and offer input regarding accessible features. The design architect would attend the May 2, 2024 meeting to discuss the Committee's suggestions.

11.2 Spring Delegation

The Committee agreed to update Council on their work so far including review of building plans, policy review, terms of

reference review, WE Check the Trails Phase 3, social media updates and review the Workplan for 2024.

Dennis will lead the presentation with other members offering sections of information throughout.

12. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee is scheduled for May 2, 2024 at 5 PM in Council Chambers at the Essex County Civic Centre.

13. Adjournment

Moved By Kimberly DeYong

Seconded By Debbie Alexander

That the April 4, 2024 meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee be adjourned at 6:28 PM.

Carried