



Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 6, 2025

5:00 PM

Council Chambers, 2nd Floor

360 Fairview Avenue West

Essex, Ontario N8M 1Y6

<https://video.isilive.ca/countyofessex/live.html>

Committee

Members:

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

Administration:

Crystal Sylvestre, Manager, Records and Accessibility /
Deputy Clerk

1. Call to Order

Crystal Sylvestre called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.

2. 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.

3. Recording of Attendance

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

Kimberly DeYong and Rachel Jewell attended the meeting virtually from a remote location.

Crystal Sylvestre presided over the meeting until the election of the Chair.

4. Elections

Crystal Sylvestre explained that the position of Chair and Vice Chair would be for a one-year term per the Terms of Reference.

Debbie Alexander nominated Dennis Sanson to the position of Chair.

Dennis Sanson nominated Debbie Alexander to the position of Vice Chair.

Both agreed to stand.

Moved By Sherri Currie

Seconded By Kimberly DeYong

That Dennis Sanson be appointed as Chair of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee for the year 2025.

And that Debbie Alexander be appointed as Vice Chair of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee for the year 2025.

Carried

5. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no conflicts of pecuniary interest declared.

6. Adoption of the Minutes

Moved By Sherri Currie

Seconded By Debbie Alexander

That the minutes of the December 5, 2024 meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee be adopted as presented.

Carried

7. Delegations and Presentations

7.1 County of Essex Communications

Gemma Belanger-Collard, Coordinator, Communications and Organizational Development offered the committee a statistical

review of the 2024 social media investments and the gains realized with a modest financial investment.

The discussion included opportunities to increase exposure for the 2025 Fest-for-All and the committee's initiatives through social media and traditional methods of advertisement.

8. Communications

Moved By Julie Miles

Seconded By Sherri Currie

That items listed on the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting agenda, as items 7. 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?

9. Unfinished Business

9.1 2025 Workplan

2025 Workplan was reviewed and discussed up to April 2025.

10. Reports from Administration

10.1 Adjust 2025 Meeting Dates

Crystal Sylvestre requested alterations to the 2025 meeting schedule to accommodate Fest-for-All plans.

Moved By Debbie Alexander

Seconded By Sherri Currie

That the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee adjust the 2025 meeting schedule to:

- Move the May meeting to May 1, 2025
- Move the June meeting to June 12, 2025

Carried

10.2 Fest-for-All 2025 Update

Crystal Sylvestre confirmed that the 2025 Fest-for-All would be held at the Libro Credit Union Centre in Amherstburg, Ontario. Friday, September 12, 2025 was selected as the event date. The hours would be 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

The venue would offer the opportunity for indoor and outdoor exhibition space.

Moved By Debbie Alexander

Seconded By Sherri Currie

That the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee approve that the 2025 Fest-for-All will be held on Friday, September 12, 2025 at the Libro Credit Union Centre in Amherstburg.

Carried

11. New Business

There was no New Business for February 6, 2025.

12. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee is scheduled for March 6, 2025.

13. Adjournment

Moved By Debbie Alexander

Seconded By Sherri Currie

That the February 6, 2025 meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee be adjourned at 5:51 PM.

Carried