

**Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee of  
Lincoln, West Lincoln, Pelham, Thorold, Niagara-on-the-Lake,  
Grimsby and Port Colborne  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, November 13, 2025  
City of Thorold City Hall, Committee Room 1  
3540 Schmon Parkway  
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Joey Hewitt (Thorold), Rhys Evans (Pelham), Rebecca Hill (Lincoln), Jennifer Thiessen (Lincoln), Jennifer Korstanje (Grimsby), Dan Whipple (Pelham) Dave Antaya (NOTL), Dianne Rintjema (Lincoln) Lisa Peso (Grimsby), Nicholas Debono, Clerk, City of Thorold, Donna Herrington and Rachel Herrington (The Herrington Group).

**Regrets:** Laura Slade (Port Colborne) Lauren Bubnic (NOTL), Janice Desroches (Thorold).

**Guests:** Tim Jennings, Shaw Festival, Amanda Motyer and Meika McCunn, Unity Design Studio.

1. Call to order. Rhys chaired the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

Dianne asked to add the No Barrier Business Accessibility Award for the Town of Lincoln under New Business.

Rhys asked that Treat Accessibly be added to Business Arising from the Minutes.

Be it resolved that the agenda is approved as presented. Moved by Dave Antaya, seconded by Dianne Rintjema. CARRIED.

**3. Approval of the Minutes of September 18, 2025**

Be it resolved that the Minutes of September 18, 2025, are approved as presented. Moved by Rebecca Hill, seconded by Dave Antaya. CARRIED.

## **Business Arising from the Minutes:**

### **4. Royal George Theatre Renovations, NOTL Presentation – Amanda Motyer, Unity Design Studio, Tim Jennings, Shaw Festival**

Amanda provided a presentation on accessibility of Royal George Theatre renovation. The JAAC had questions about accessible parking and accessible seating.

How does the Rick Hansen Foundation system work? It doubles the accessibility framework and references other, better standards than the AODA.

Parking is still an issue. Fragrance free zones are important.

### **5. Treat Accessibly**

Rhys mentioned that this initiative should be region wide and that Wayne Olsen, Regional Councillor for Pelham would like to see a presentation made to the Region.

This would be the responsibility of Dave Pantano from Treat Accessibly. Rhys was encouraged to ask Dave to reach out to the Region.

### **6. Community Guides/Website Accessibility Pages Subcommittee**

Members were asked about their interest again as there was some confusion.

The subcommittee will include Rhys Evans, Jennifer Korstanje, Lisa Peso and Rebecca Hill. Donna will get the group together before the holidays.

### **7. Pelham Parks and Pools**

Donna provided staff with the requested information. There were no further questions.

## **New Business:**

### **8. No Barrier Business Accessibility Award for the Town of Lincoln**

Dianne is spearheading this new award for the Town of Lincoln Chamber of Commerce. She and Donna are meeting with the Chamber next week to discuss the award criteria. It is hoped that the JAAC will assist in appointing the winner of the award.

9. **Accessibility Matters Here Award – St. Catharines**

The St. Catharines AAC is interested in joining our award program and expanding it to include the City of St. Catharines. This will require new marketing material, such as a new logo.

The JAAC is open to this as long as our identity within the award is preserved as we have done a lot of work to establish it.

**Motion,** Be it resolved that the JAAC agrees in principle with the St. Catharines AAC joining our Accessibility Matters Here campaign. Moved by Dan Whipple, seconded by Dianne Rintjema. CARRIED.

10. **Accessibility Matters Award – Business resource**

Rachel presented some information from the Award Program. Awareness of the JAAC is widely different between municipalities; we need to create uniformity.

We should keep a running list of who won in what year and make this easier to find (perhaps on our Accessibility Page?).

Also, our accessibility criteria could make a good guide for the general public, focusing on cheap and easy ways to create accessibility.

These suggestions will be brought forward to the subcommittee looking at our accessibility pages.

11. **Community News**

Dave Antaya is the Parade Marshal for the NOTL Santa Claus Parade this year and is looking for some accessibility ideas. Jennifer Korstanje from Grimsby has some to offer. Dave and Jennifer will connect.

12. **Next Meeting** – Thursday January 8, 2026, at City of Thorold, Committee Room 1, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

13. **Adjournment.** Dan motioned to adjourn the meeting; Dave seconded.