

**Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 28, 2021
Zoom Meeting
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

Present: Kathleen Kelly (Lincoln), Stephen Barker (Grimsby), Karen Lemieux (West Lincoln), Dave Antaya (NOTL) Andrea Mamo (Port Colborne), Joey Hewitt (Thorold), Donna Herrington (JAAC Coordinator), Ann Villalta (Pelham), Laura Slade (Port Colborne), Brenda Mitchell (Lincoln)

Regrets: Carole Furher (Lincoln), Rhys Evans (Pelham), Mary Murray (Admin Group Rep.)

Absent: Dianne Rintjema (Lincoln Council Rep), Victoria Wilson (Thorold Council Rep).

1. Call to order.

Stephen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Welcome to Laura from Port Colborne.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes from August 12, 2021

A correction of our next meeting date (to be changed from October 14 to October 28) is required. Be it resolved that the minutes are approved as amended. Moved by Dave Antaya seconded by Karen Lemieux. CARRIED.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Presentations to Councils

- Dave presented at NOTL Council – Looking to meet with the local Chamber of Commerce regarding the old hospital site and accessibility in NOTL. Dave recommended the building of a parking garage while keeping with the heritage look. This issue will take a great deal of dialogue and discussion about heritage buildings and expandability of accessibility will be necessary.
- Kathleen & Rhys attended on September 20th to West Lincoln, as a result of the feedback from council at that meeting, it was recommended that council

review AODA training and Donna sent out that communication. Kathleen & Rhys also attended a presentation to Lincoln on October 18th, 2021. All requests by the JAAC committee were approved.

- Ann & Rhys attend Pelham Council – all went well, well received by council and all requests granted.
- Joey attended Thorold Council. We were welcomed warmly and Council shared all of the AODA improvements that has taken place in the city. Thorold Council is aware of the We are Accessible program and continues to support the committee's efforts.
- Port Colborne – November 8th – Donna & Stephen to present, Andrea volunteered to facilitate the presentation. Donna will confirm attendance with Mary Murray.
- Stephen presented at Grimsby, was well received and presentation went well.

b) Audits

- On hold due to Donna's health, will be pushed out to the new year

c) Potential JAAC member

- Previous Committee member – Leanne Cayer, a Thorold resident, is interested in rejoining the JAAC. Although there are vacancies, these municipalities want people who live in their municipality to represent them. This may mean that Leanne must wait until the next election to re-apply to the JAAC.

6. New Business

a) Niagara Regional Transit

- Stephen circulated a letter to the committee about the app being inaccessible. Stephen attended the meeting and NRT is taking over everyone's transit and be merged into one system. Stephen attended and was not received well. Human Rights complaint filed against NRT due to the inaccessibility. Stephen will follow up with Diane from Lincoln about sending the letter out – Mike the CAO of Beamsville recommended.

Joey recommends that a letter is sent to regional transit and involve other AAC committees to be a shared voice about the requirement of making transit more accessible. Andrea stated that she attended a meeting regarding stops and was disregarded, accessibility is not being addressed. Letter to be emailed to committee for review before submission.

MOTION: Be it resolved that a letter be prepared by Stephen and Andrea. Once approved by the JAAC, the letter be sent to the CEO and Mayors of all 12 municipalities as well as the Niagara Regional Transit. We will also send copies to the Chairs of the other accessibility committees for awareness.

b) Update Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

- Due for an update in the new year, Donna will provide us with a sketch of where we are currently with the plan, Donna will bring plan to February meeting.

c) Grimsby Chamber of Commerce

- Stephen spoke with Chamber of Commerce and they were interested in collaborating with the JAAC but has not received any information. He will follow up.

d) Community News

- Per Joey - City of Thorold requires proof of double vaccination by October 1st, 2021 in order to participate in JAAC committee and presentations at council. Much discussion about Vaccine policies across several municipalities.
- Per Dave – ribbon cutting ceremony at community centre for day care in NOTL, open and running, questionable accessibility as not reviewed by committee. Recommending that this facility should be put forward for review.

7. **Next Meeting** – Thursday, December 9, 2021, via Zoom. Be festive!

8. **Adjournment**

Moved by Brenda Mitchell, seconded by Dave Antaya.