



Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

MINUTES

A meeting of the Stratford Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) was held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, at 11:30 a.m., Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Room, 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford ON

Committee Members Present: Roger Koert – Chair Presiding, Diane Sims, Jamie Pritchard, Geoff Krauter, Kathleen Barry, Joan Jones, Councillor Bonnie Henderson

Staff Present: Oonagh Vaucrosson – Accessibility, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator, Nathan Bottema – Project Engineer, Vicky Trotter – Council Committee Coordinator, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Regrets: Andy Mark

1. Call to Order

Roger Koert, Chair presiding, called the AAC meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.

Reading of the Land Acknowledgement and a Moment of Silent Reflection.

Reading of the Respectful Workplace Policy.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None declared.

3. Adoption of the Previous Minutes

Motion by Diane Sims

Seconded by Jamie Pritchard

THAT the minutes from the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting dated October 1, 2024 be adopted as printed. Carried

4. Welcome New Member

Roger Koert welcomed new member Joan Jones to the AAC as the Family Services Perth-Huron representative.

5. Delegate:

Mark Hackett, Community Facilities Manager, presented the draft plans for the accessibility upgrades to the washrooms at National Stadium. Members reviewed and discussed various items regarding the layout.

- The door to the women's universal stall opens in;
- Making all three sinks in the women's washroom accessible;
- Possibly removing one regular stall in the women's washroom;
- Installing a sink inside the universal washroom stalls;

The site plan review committee will meet and do a closer review of the plans and submit a report to Mark Hackett no later than November 22, 2024.

Roger Koert inquired with Mark Hackett regarding the porous pave stretch of the pathway at the Packham Soccer Fields. Mr. Hackett explained that Stratford Youth Soccer installed that product. Mr. Hackett stated that IDS attempted maintenance on the crushed asphalt pathways, however, were not successful and are investigating different options. Mr. Hackett will follow up with staff and will report back to the AAC with an update. Mr. Koert stated that at some point someone will need to take ownership of the inaccessible crushed asphalt pathways and make a plan to get back on track.

Mr. Koert stated that paved accessible parking spots were installed in the parking lot closest to the astroturf field previously. However, the gravel parking lot has now been extended beyond the paved spots, which makes the spots inaccessible.

6. Infrastructure Services Update

Nathan Bottema, Project Engineer provided the following update:

- The asphalt/concrete/turf subcontractor has been given the list of tactile plates, curb cuts and additional work to be done. They added it to the list for October; however, some work has been bumped to November now;
- Improving the intersection and curb cut at St. Vincent Street and Cambria Street;
- Improving the intersection and curb cut at St. David and Nelson Street;
- The intersection of St. David Street and Wellington Street has been completed;
- St. Andrew parking configuration near the Courthouse has been added to their list;

- Curb cut and improvement at Delamere Avenue and Haig Street has been added. The need for a pedestrian cross-over has been identified, so tactile plates will also be redone;
- Erie Street work is ongoing and asphalt will be completed tomorrow. Sidewalk from St. Patrick to St. David Street still needs to be installed, landscaping and some intersection wiring work at West Gore need to be completed;
- Greenwood, Devon and West Gore paving scheduled to begin November 8, 2024;
- Oakdale Avenue multi-use trail scheduled for asphalt on November 14, 2024 with some remaining restoration work.

Vicky Trotter has received an update from the Director of Infrastructure Services regarding the platform in the park area across from the Veteran's Drive Bandshell. Ms. Trotter has now completed a draft report that will proceed at a later date for consideration.

Roger Koert discussed the multi-use trail and the possibility of a pedestrian cross-over at the soccer field to the ball diamond. Mr. Bottema suggested that instead of a cross-over, perhaps an accessible parking spot on Oakdale Avenue (near the back stop of the ball diamond) with a curb drop.

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Seconded by Diane Sims

THAT the Stratford Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends an accessible parking space and curb-cut be installed on the north side of Oakdale Avenue between O'Loane Avenue and Matilda Street adjacent to the baseball field. Carried

Roger Koert inquired about a possible pedestrian cross-over on Erie Street at the Zion Church corner. Nathan Bottema stated that this location is identified in the Transportation Master Plan and funds were available in this year's budget. However, staff is working with the MTO as the regulations are different if Erie Street is a 3-lane or 4-lane roadway. Mr. Bottema noted that addition pedestrian crossovers are planned for Downie Street at George Street (Avon Theatre) and West Gore Street at Downie Street. Oonagh Vaucrosson will contact the citizen who inquired about the crossing on Erie Street.

7. Site Plan Review Sub-Committee Update

Oonagh Vaucrosson, Accessibility, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator, provided an update that the Review Sub-Committee reviewed the following plans:

Site plans reviewed in October:

- 380 – 396 Ontario Street
- 489 Douro Street
- 375 Wright Boulevard
- 67 James Street
- 74 Church Street

Sites to be reviewed:

- 525 O’Loane Avenue
- 22 Wingfield Avenue
- 662-666 Ontario Street

8. Update from the Accessibility, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator

Oonagh Vaucrosson provided a written report for November to the AAC members and highlighted the following items:

- Ms. Vaucrosson attended the ONAP Fall Conference on October 25-25, 2024;
- working with vendors on digital accessibility;
- researching accessible taxi’s;
- provided a Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility update;
- provided an update from the PHBA;
- creating a Mobi Mats procedures document;
- PASS Training with Sawchuk Accessible Solutions;

9. Update from Council

Councillor Henderson stated that in the Shakespearean Gardens staff was going to install an accessible bridge over to the small island with two benches on it. However, it has been decided that since the projects was approximately \$100,000.00, they would contact the people who have the benches there and have them relocated and leave the island to naturalize.

10. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

10.1 Launch of the FADM with Perth-Huron Builders Association

Oonagh Vaucrosson received an e-mail from Melissa Schenk of the Perth-Huron Builders Association and there is an upcoming change in their chairperson and there may not be an opportunity to be added to their next agenda and suggested submitting a presentation date for members to attend. Geoff Krauter suggested organizing a presentation open to the public and PHBA members

could also attend. Members feel it is important to present directly to the builders at an upcoming PHBA meeting. Oonagh Vaucrosson will contact the PHBA again to inquire if they can get scheduled. A public information session can also be organized separately.

10.2 Annual Accessibility Award

The review sub-committee visited four locations that were nominated for this year's Accessibility Award. All businesses nominated worked towards making their buildings and services accessible for all.

Motion by Diane Sims

Seconded by Kathleen Barry

THAT the Stratford Accessibility Advisory Committee presents the Stratford Festival with the 2024 Accessibility Award. Carried

Representatives from the Stratford Festival will be contacted and invited to the November 25, 2024 Council meeting for the award presentation.

10.3 Update on Accessibility Audits for City of Stratford Facilities

There are currently two audits that the subcommittee will be completing, one at Perth Huron Family Services and one at the Stratford Library.

Oonagh Vaucrosson has also been contacted regarding the GoHere washroom app. Ms. Vaucrosson will reach out to Rob Ross to inquire if he would be available to attend an upcoming AAC meeting to discuss.

10.4 Doorbell Program and AAC Promotional Items

Vicky Trotter reported that the doorbells will be ordered very soon. Jamie Pritchard presented various options for AAC promotional items such as pens, notebooks, hot/cold packs, etc.

Motion by Jamie Pritchard

Seconded by Diane Sims

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee spends up to a maximum of \$1,500.00 on various promotional items for the Committee. Carried

11. New Business

11.1 Police Station Update

Diane Sims updated the Committee that the wheelchair ramp and modification at the front entrance of the Police Station at 17 George Street is scheduled to be completed this month. There will be a ribbon-cutting before year-end.

Mark Hackett updated the Committee that there has been a slight delay, but hopefully it will only set them back one week.

11.2 SERC Track Accessibility

Roger Koert stated that he has invited the Director of Sport Tourism to the December AAC meeting to provide an update.

12. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the AAC will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. at the Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Room, 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford ON

13. Adjournment

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Seconded by Jamie Pritchard

THAT the November 5, 2024, Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Start Time: 11:40 A.M.

End Time: 1:24 P.M.