



A meeting of the Stratford Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) was held on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 11:30 a.m., electronically.

**Committee Present:** Peter Zein – Chair Presiding, Councillor Bonnie Henderson, Diane Sims, Susan Lavender, Judy Hopf

**Staff Present:** Tatiana Dafoe – City Clerk, \*Marion McKeen – County of Perth, Tyler Sager – Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk (County of Perth), \*Dan Sykes – Development Coordinator, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

**Absent:** Peg Huettlin, Geoff Krauter, Laurie Maloney-Devlin

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## Minutes

### 1.0 Call to Order

The Chair called the AAC meeting to order at 11:32 a.m.

### 2.0 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None declared.

### 3.0 Adoption of the Previous Minutes

Motion by Judy Hopf, seconded by Susan Lavender

**THAT the minutes from the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting dated January 5, 2021 be adopted as printed.**

**Carried**

### 4.0 Infrastructure & Development Services Update – Dan Sykes, Development Coordinator

- The Mornington Street connecting pathway from Graff Avenue to McCarthy Road is still scheduled to be completed in 2021.
- Development Services staff's \$50,000.00 request for the 2021 annual accessibility budget has been approved by Council.
- Council approved the TJ Dolan accessible trail project.
- Staff has been working on the bridge replacements/improvements and are nearing completion. Dan Sykes will inquire with the inspector if he can provide some

pictures to the members to show them the locations and scope of work being completed.

- Mr. Sykes has discussed sign placement at the access aisles with the traffic department, however feedback from the AAC may be helpful in arranging the sign order on the poles. Peter Zein explained that by putting the “no parking” sign on the existing pole; drivers do not see it when they are parking. Mr. Sykes will investigate further and possibly arrange a site visit.

\*Dan Sykes departed the meeting at 11:41 a.m.

## **5.0 Parking**

Tatiana Dafoe reported that she forwarded the AAC’s concerns regarding snow clearing at accessible parking spots and at the curb between the sidewalk and access aisles to the Public Works department. The Manager of Public Works will relay the request to operators to ensure that they are checking these spots. They will do their best to clear these areas in a timely manner.

Ms. Dafoe explained that there are no current plans to update parking spots in the Albert Street lot. If the Committee would like to see a change, she recommends the Committee make a motion for consideration by Stratford City Council. The motion would request direction be given to staff to investigate the specific updates to the accessible spaces in the Albert Street lot.

## **6.0 Transit**

Judy Hopf reported that it does not appear that mobility bus drivers are enforcing the requirement to wear a mask while using the service. With respect to snow clearing at transit stops, the members advised they are not using the system due to the pandemic and do not have any issues to report.

Councillor Henderson reported that in 2021 there will be 15 additional bus shelters added and they will be the 5 X 10 ft. size and the benches in them will not have dividers in the middle. She has also reported that the on-demand bus system has started on Saturdays/Sundays and has received positive feedback.

Judy Hopf inquired if Councillor Henderson had any updates regarding the bus stop/shelter in the Zehrs parking lot. Councillor Henderson will inquire with the Transit Manager on the status of that stop. Judy Hopf will draft a letter to Zehrs for the Chair to sign, requesting they investigate a more accessible stop on their property. Staff will forward it to the business owner.

## **7.0 Site Plan Review Sub-Committee Feedback Reports – T. Sager/M. McKeen**

Marion McKeen shared an overview of the feedback reports for the five site plan reviews the Sub-Committee consulted on in 2020. There were very few reviews last year and Ms. McKeen expects the reviews will pick up in 2021.

An issue was raised regarding residential site plan reviews and the role of the AAC to provide feedback for developers. Peter Zein noted that in the AAC's current Terms of Reference it states:

"that the Committee is to advise Council on matters to improve opportunities for persons with disabilities, and to provide for involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to full participation in the community."

In his opinion, this should not limit the committee to City-owned properties or businesses, it should include residential developments. Diane Sims agreed that the Terms of Reference do appear to allow for the AAC to comment on residential developments. Judy Hopf stated that it is a difficult position for the AAC to not put themselves in a situation of reviewing developments and then having developers state their building is accessible, due to the fact that the AAC reviewed plans. Additional concerns were expressed that the Committee cannot speak to members of staff or private developers.

Tatiana Dafoe reported that the City's Chief Building Official is currently finishing the review of the Facilities Accessibility Design Guidelines and if complete, will attend the March AAC meeting to have a discussion on the document and also the mandate and role of the committee. The AAC will have an opportunity to review the updates and provide feedback on the guidelines. Ms. Dafoe stated City facilities can be constructed to the standards in the document and that the document would be given to provide developers. She stated private developers are not required to follow the standard as they are only required by law to follow the standards in the Ontario Building Code Act. She encouraged Committee members to consider asking other accessibility committees to lobby the Provincial Government to improve the Ontario Building Code's minimum standards if there are concerns related to accessibility and private developments in the City. Ms. Dafoe assured members that they can contact staff at any time with questions and concerns. She recommends starting with herself or a Manager or Director initially for them to direct staff. It is important to follow proper processes and to not contact developers directly.

Diane Sims suggested that the Stratford AAC could hold an accessibility workshop or forum for developers. Councillor Henderson recommended connecting with the Stratford and Area Builders Association. Ms. Sims will do some research on other AAC Terms of Reference from municipalities of similar size to Stratford, as well as other larger centres as examples of what Stratford could strive towards. Marion McKeen

reported that staff continues to be in contact with ONAP and other AAC's for discussions and sharing information.

Tyler Sager encouraged all the AAC members to please contact himself, Marion McKeen or Tatiana Dafoe with any accessibility concerns or issues for them to help address them.

## **8.0 Report from Council on Accessibility Issues – Councillor Henderson**

Councillor Henderson reported that at the January 25, 2021 Council meeting, Council gave final approval that the Comprehensive Zoning By-law will be updated to increase the size of Type B accessible parking spots from 2.4m to 2.8m wide. She also reported that the accessible trail on the north side of the river starting from James Street is being extended another 60m westward and the work will begin shortly.

## **9.0 Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

**(a) Update on Stratford Accessibility Guidelines – Tatiana Dafoe, City Clerk**  
As reported above.

**(b) Update on AAC Stand Banner – Tyler Sager, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk, County of Perth**

The banner is complete and Tyler Sager will pick it up and deliver it to the Clerk's Office at City Hall to store. He will take a picture of the banner and send it to members. Judy Hopf suggested the AAC could get a booth at the Saturday Farmer's Market to hand out information and display the banner. Councillor Henderson also suggested that the banner could be displayed at various entrances – farmer's market, SLAAA, City Hall, mall.

**(c) Accessible Housing By-Law Review – P. Zein/G. Krauter/D. Sims**

Diane Sims reported that she has contacted the Accessibility Co-ordinator for the City of Oshawa. They have a 10-member committee and 6 are disabled. The Stratford AAC is a 9-member committee, and is required to have the majority of the members being persons with disabilities.

\*Marion McKeen departed the meeting at 12:58 p.m.

Ms. Sims reported that Oshawa does not have an accessible housing by-law; however they have lobbied Council to remind them of the deficiencies they are seeing in the City. They have been able to get tax deferrals for builders who will address accessibility concerns. The Clerk suggested if the AAC would like to move ahead with this idea, a recommendation be made to Council by the AAC that a tax-deferral program be pursued and include background information and examples from other municipalities. Diane Sims and Councillor Henderson will work together to research this initiative and report back to the Committee.

## **10.0 New Business**

### **(a) Annual Review of Terms of Reference**

As discussed above. The Committee will continue to review their mandate at the next meeting.

### **(b) Ontario and Queen Street Property Development – Judy Hopf**

Judy Hopf inquired if developers are beginning work again on the property at the corner of Ontario and Queen Streets. Councillor Henderson reported that they have held their first public meeting regarding the 4-story development.

### **(c) Ontario Community Support Program Extended until 2022**

Councillor Henderson forwarded an e-mail with information regarding the extension of the Ontario Community Support Program to 2022.

## **11.0 Next Meeting – Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 11:30 a.m., electronically**

## **12.0 Adjournment**

Motion by Diane Sims, seconded by Judy Hopf

**THAT the February 2, 2021 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried**

Start Time: 11:32 A.M.

End Time: 1:09 P.M.