



A meeting of the Stratford Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) was held on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 11:30 a.m., electronically.

Committee Present: *Peter Zein – Chair Presiding, *Councillor Bonnie Henderson, Judy Hopf, Geoff Krauter, Laurie Maloney-Devlin, Diane Sims, Susan Lavender, *Peg Huettlin

Staff Present: Tatiana Dafoe – Clerk (City of Stratford), *Dan Sykes – Development Coordinator (City of Stratford), Tyler Sager – Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk (County of Perth), Sean McCoy – Legislative Coordinator (County of Perth), *Mike Mousley – Manager of Transit (City of Stratford), Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary (City of Stratford)

Minutes

1.0 Call to Order

Peter Zein, Chair called the AAC meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

2.0 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None declared.

3.0 Adoption of the Previous Minutes

Motion by Geoff Krauter, seconded by Susan Lavender

THAT the minutes from the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting dated May 4, 2021 be adopted as printed. Carried

*Councillor Henderson now present at the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

4.0 Transit – Mike Mousley, Manager of Transit – New Mobility Bus & Shelters

Mike Mousley, Manager of Transit, attended the meeting to discuss with AAC members the design of the newest high-floor model mobility bus in Stratford. Judy Hopf, Member, previously raised a concern about the small step into the back of the bus. Mr. Mousley explained that the step into the back of the bus is necessary, as the high-floor model eliminates the wheel wells, thus providing an open and level floor in the back of the bus. Staff will be adding a “watch your step” sticker to the step, the same as the one on the large steps getting into the bus. The step also has lights under it. Riders

also have the option to use the steps or the lift at the back of the bus. Not only can riders use the lift for wheelchairs, it is also used with walkers or if anyone is just more comfortable using the lift as opposed to the stairs. Staff will assist and ride on the lift with them.

Ms. Hopf expressed concerns that people with low vision will struggle to see the step. There are a lot of areas highlighted in yellow and the step does not really stand out. Members suggested a patterned sticker would make it stand out. Mr. Mousley assured members that the mobility staff will be diligent in assisting all riders and to ensure that they are aware that the step to the back is there. He noted that the back of the bus needed to be lowered 3", to allow the bus to fit in many locations with awnings, etc. The step would have been much higher, had it not been lowered. Peter Zein inquired if Mr. Mousley would have drivers track if they have any incidents, such as tripping, with the step. Mr. Mousley will have them do this and noted that in the three months since the new bus has been in service, there have been no reports to date of anyone tripping. Diane Sims stated that, as someone who deals with low vision, black and yellow markings and perhaps reflective, are the best markings. Mr. Mousley will also update signage in the bus to encourage riders to let the drivers know what assistance they may require.

Councillor Henderson inquired how stable the lift is for people to stand on and be raised up into the bus. Mr. Mousley explained that it is stable and can hold up to 1000 lbs. There are belts and railings that can be used and the driver also rides with them to help them get on and off.

Mr. Mousley reviewed the 14 new accessible shelters that are being installed in the city. Most are the larger 5' X 10' size unless space only allows for the standard 4' X 8' model. The new shelters have a solar powered LED light in them. The estimated completion is to have all the shelters installed by late summer or early fall.

The temporary wooden shed/shelter that is in the Rotary Complex parking lot will be replaced this summer with a new shelter. The shelter will use the same design as the others being installed in the city. With the pending redesign of the parking lot, he has decided to proceed with this location without knowing when the new design will be finalized. Members are concerned with the location in the parking lot, as people will have to cross through the lot to get to it. Councillor Henderson suggested a location closer to the building would be safer. Councillor Henderson and Laurie Maloney-Devlin will work with Mr. Mousley to survey safer locations.

*Mike Mousley, Manager of Transit, no longer present at the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

5.0 Infrastructure & Development Services Update – Dan Sykes

Dan Sykes, Development Coordinator, provided the following update:

- The curb replacement is taking place today on Lakeside Drive. Mr. Sykes will be on site to review. Peter Zein will also do a site visit.
- Redford Crescent final restoration is ongoing. At the park there will be asphalt from the street to the property line and then Community Services will install a pathway or trail into the park. This is included in the master plan; however, work has not begun.
- The O'Loane Avenue restoration project is continuing.
- The Queen Street project will be tendering late summer, with work to be completed over the winter.
- The conversion of T.J. Dolan Drive from St. Vincent to St. David Street to a multi-use trail is in the design phase and funding is pending.
- Design for St. David to Centre Street (at T.J. Dolan intersection) to close to traffic, pending funding and final approval from Council.
- West Gore Street (north side) and Mornington Street sidewalks will be tendered together as one project. One contractor to complete both projects in 2021.
- The intersection at Patricia Road and Kathryn Crescent have been added for curb cut improvements.
- Peter Zein reviewed some of the locations along the north side of Lakeside Drive. Diane Sims will also go and complete a review.

6.0 Parking

No items for discussion.

7.0 Site Plan Review Sub-Committee Feedback Reports – Sean McCoy

There were no reviews to complete this month.

8.0 Report from Council on Accessibility Issues – Councillor Henderson

Councillor Henderson reported that there is currently a motion before Council to convert T.J. Dolan to a one-way street between St. David and Centre Streets. The multi-use trail would be on the north side, then a parking lane, travelling lane and parking on the south side. Tatiana Dafoe, City Clerk, will circulate the report and the draft design to the committee for their information.

9.0 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

(a) Facility Accessibility Design Manual (FADM) Update

Committee members were provided with a summary from the Chief Building Official, as well as the manual prior to the meeting. The Building Department did not make any amendments since the last version the committee reviewed. The only update is the size of the type B accessible parking space. Councillor Henderson noted that the type B spaces have not been updated in all areas of the manual from 2400 to 2800. Ms. Dafoe will review and update prior to submitting. Peter Zein inquired if members could receive a hard copy of the manual.

Ms. Dafoe stated if any members would like a paper copy, please e-mail herself or Casey Riehl, Recording Secretary, to arrange to have one mailed or picked up.

Motion by Geoff Krauter, seconded by Diane Sims

THAT the Facility Accessibility Design Manual be received and recommended for adoption by Stratford City Council, as amended to include the larger Type B accessible parking spaces. Carried

(b) 2021 Project Action Plan

Peter Zein reviewed the priority projects to be completed by the AAC by the end of 2021:

- **Complete the review of recreational facilities for report submission to Community Services** – Councillor Henderson reported that there are two more locations to visit and review. Once the stay-at-home order is lifted and guidelines allow, members will visit the sites. Councillor Henderson will contact staff to arrange dates.

Laurie Maloney-Devlin suggested that with the growing list of items of concern that fall under the Community Services Department, could the AAC start a sub-committee to prepare a list that could be submitted to them. Some recent issues raised have been various pathways in the park system, accessible entry at the Upper Queen's washrooms, north shore washroom and playgrounds. Councillor Henderson will raise these issues at the June 17, 2021 Community Services meeting. Tatiana Dafoe has suggested that AAC members could send her their list of concerns and she will reach out to Community Services. Some projects will have a capital budget implication and will require the AAC to pass a motion to refer it to the 2022 budget or capital planning projects for Community Services to incorporate. Peter Zein suggested that it is effective to do a site visit for any of the larger projects. Ms. Dafoe stated that creating a list will be the initial step. Please send your list of items as soon as possible. Community Services staff have been invited to attend the September AAC meeting.

Judy Hopf inquired why Community Services did not choose the accessible playground the AAC review sub-committee had chosen. Councillor Henderson and Sean McCoy, Legislative Coordinator for Perth County, explained that the review is based on a list of criteria, with accessibility being one of them. Equipment is chosen based on the overall ratings of all the criteria combined.

- **Facility Accessibility Design Manual update approved by Council**
The AAC has now motioned to recommend that Council adopt the updated manual.

- **Develop a plan for moving forward with an accessible housing by-law**

Tyler Sager reviewed with the committee the upcoming webinars being hosted by Perth County. The webinars/training sessions are geared for businesses and will discuss topics relating to accessibility and age-friendly options. The information to join any of the upcoming webinars or sessions is on the Perth County website. The sessions will also be recorded for members to view after. Peter Zein stated that perhaps Ms. Sawchuck would be available to assist the Stratford AAC with their future training sessions.

*Peg Huettlin no longer present at the meeting at 12:48 p.m.

Laurie Maloney-Devlin inquired if accessible housing incentives could be offered to builders, like the green initiative incentives for builders who build energy efficient homes, as outlined in the management report to the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting. Laurie Maloney-Devlin, Geoff Krauter, Councillor Henderson, Diane Sims and Judy Hopf volunteered to form a sub-committee to work on researching what is feasible, costs involved, etc. Peter Zein suggested that supportive housing be included in the report. The sub-committee will work over the summer to put information together to discuss at the September AAC meeting.

(c) Accessibility Awareness Week (May 30-June 5) – Tatiana Dafoe

Tatiana Dafoe, City Clerk, reported that communications have been developed and will be released on social media highlighting something new each day.

(d) Federal Budget – Including Seniors 60+ and People with Disabilities

Sean McCoy, Legislative Coordinator, and Tyler Sager, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk for Perth County, drafted a letter, which was reviewed by the Chair. It has been forwarded to the City Clerk for final review. Ms. Dafoe reported they are preparing a management report to accompany the letter. Once it is in its final draft, she will circulate it to the AAC members for their information.

(e) 16 Blake Street – Public Consultation for Zone Change Application

There will be an upcoming public meeting on Monday, June 21, 2021 at 6:00 pm. At the meeting residents can raise any concerns they may have with this development and AAC members can inquire about accessibility concerns. Tatiana Dafoe, City Clerk, will forward the contact information for the City planner who is working on this project, as well as recirculate the notice to members which includes the process on how to request to appear as a delegate at the meeting.

10.0 New Business

(a) Upper Queen's Park Accessibility Concerns – Peter Zein

As discussed above.

(b) Perth County Representation – Tyler Sager

Tyler Sager, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk for Perth County, informed the AAC that the County of Perth would no longer be providing accessibility support services to the City. The transition from the County providing services to the City will officially take place on July 25, 2021. Mr. Sager and Sean McCoy will wrap up any outstanding items to insure the smooth transition process. City of Stratford staff will inform members of updated processes after the transition.

Peter Zein thanked Tyler Sager and Sean McCoy for all their help with the committee over the past year.

*Peter Zein no longer present at the meeting at 1:18 p.m.

Diane Sims, Vice-Chair assumed the role of Chair.

11.0 Next Meeting – Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 11:30 a.m., electronically.

12.0 Adjournment

Motion by Councillor Henderson, seconded by Judy Hopf

**THAT the June 1, 2021 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting adjourn.
Carried**

Start Time: 11:30 A.M.

End Time: 1:20 P.M.