



## Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

### MINUTES

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

**Committee Members Present:** Peter Zein – Chair Presiding, Councillor Bonnie Henderson, Laurie Maloney-Devlin, Roger Koert, \*Geoff Krauter, Peg Huettlin

**Staff Present:** \*Tatiana Dafoe – Clerk, \*Dan Sykes – Development Coordinator, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

**Absent:** Diane Sims, Judy Hopf

#### 1.0 Call to Order

Peter Zein, 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.

\*Geoff Krauter and Tatiana Dafoe now present at the meeting at 11:33 a.m.

#### 3.0 Adoption of the Previous Minutes

Motion by Roger Koert

Seconded by Laurie Maloney-Devlin

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

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

Dan Sykes, Development Coordinator, provided the following update:

- The accessible parking spot on Lakeside Drive is still scheduled to be completed this year. If it does not get completed before the weather turns, it will be scheduled for completion in the spring (April 2022).
- Final paving is complete for the Redford Crescent restoration project and the project will be closed out soon.
- The Queen Street project has been started and some surrounding streets are temporarily closed.
- The TJ Dolan project is now underway and proceeding as planned.
- Mr. Sykes clarified that repairs at railway crossings within the railway property, are the responsibility of CNR, but they work in conjunction with the City. The City can work right up to the crossing, but CNR and Goderich/Exeter Rail must complete the fix for the railway. The St. Vincent Street crossing will be fixed in 2021. The Downie Street crossing is on their list of 2022 repairs.
- The Wellington Street repairs will be marked and added to the list for 2022.
- The curb cut across from the Tom Patterson Theatre was noted during the site plan. It has been marked out and staff will work towards getting it cut before the end of this year.
- Councillor Henderson inquired if it was possible to use budget funds to add curb cuts onto private property, such as the sidewalk across from the bus shelter in the Zehrs parking lot. Mr. Sykes advised he does not know the parameters for proceeding on private property. He will inquire with staff and report back to the AAC.

\*Dan Sykes departed the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

## **5.0 Transit**

### **(a) Accessibility at Bus Shelters – Roger Koert**

Roger Koert inquired if there has been any progress made to update the accessibility of some of the existing bus shelters. They are accessible to and from the bus, however the shelters themselves are not always accessible to get to. Councillor Henderson stated that staff is working their way back through some of the older shelters to make them more accessible. She urged members to use the "report an issue" button on the City's website. This goes directly to staff to address the concern. Councillor Henderson also offered to share the transit update from the Community Services Sub-committee meetings.

Laurie Maloney-Devlin reported that the annual transit public meeting is being held on November 17, 2021. Tatiana Dafoe advised communications were being sent out and that she would forward the meeting information to AAC members.

## **6.0 Parking**

No items for discussion.

## **7.0 Site Plan Review Sub-Committee Feedback Reports**

The Sub-committee reviewed 94 Dickens Place and provided feedback to staff.

Tatiana Dafoe will work with the Sub-committee to organize a meeting with staff to discuss a process for the review committee to provide their feedback on site plans and how this information gets reported back to the AAC.

Councillor Henderson suggested in the meantime, moving the site plan reviews up in the agenda so that they can be discussed with the Development Coordinator.

Roger Koert volunteered to be the AAC point of contact for the site plan reviews.

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

Councillor Henderson discussed the proposed development at Ontario Street and Trow Street and the recent proposed design of a “stacked townhouse”. Councillor Henderson will be raising the issue of accessibility with the stairs at the next Council meeting.

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

### **(a) Update on Launch of FADM – Tatiana Dafoe**

Tatiana Dafoe advised a draft media release was circulated to the AAC members. The next step is to issue the media release, reach out to the Stratford and Area Builders Association to get some initial feedback and then work towards developing the information sessions to be held in the new year. Peter Zein volunteered to assist with this project.

Laurie Maloney-Devlin inquired if there is a plan for staff to provide the FADM to developers at the initial stages of the process. This way if they have not participated in the information sessions, they are being provided the guidelines early in the process. Tatiana Dafoe reported that it is her goal to identify various processes throughout the City where the manual can be introduced, such as when they are initially applying for a zoning amendment application. She would also like to see Development Services staff provide the manual to developers/builders when they apply for a building permit. The FADM information could also be shared as a reminder at various times during the year, such as during National Accessibility Awareness Week.

Tatiana Dafoe suggested that, since neither the AAC or the City can regulate the accessibility of the inside of a development, that perhaps the committee could put together a fact sheet relating to indoor accessibility and post it on the City's website.

**(b) Accessibility Issues During Covid – Laurie Maloney-Devlin**

Laurie Maloney-Devlin discussed issues that people may be having with respect to navigating through all the information during COVID-19. People who do not necessarily have friends or family or a support worker to assist them may be struggling. She inquired if other members have had similar experiences, specifically electronic or online services. She noted that the Stratford Public Library has been a great resource over the last couple of year's with very good accessibility.

Tatiana Dafoe suggested adding some links to the AAC web page, so all the information is in one place. The Communications Lead has created helpful "how to" videos that could also be added. She also mentioned enhancing the feedback tool on the website to make sure it is user-friendly and easily accessible. Ms. Dafoe inquired if there was a committee member who could draft a point-form list of helpful information that could go out in a media release for International Day of Persons with Disabilities in December. Laurie Maloney-Devlin will work on a list and submit it to Ms. Dafoe.

**(c) Annual Accessibility Award (December 3, 2021)**

Roger Koert volunteered to take the lead on this year's award. Staff will forward past information to assist with the process. The AAC will review nominees prior to their December 7, 2021, meeting where they will pass a motion for this year's recipient.

**(d) Update on Accessibility and Heritage Conference – Tatiana Dafoe**

Tatiana Dafoe spoke at a recent conference addressing accessibility and heritage. One major take-away she shared with the AAC was that municipalities are starting to create a "well-being lens" and applying that lens through all city services and programs offered such as accessibility, heritage, climate, equity, diversity, and inclusion. Ms. Dafoe will inquire if a recording of the webinar is available to share with AAC members.

## **10.0 New Business**

**(a) Diane Sims – Newspaper Article**

Peter Zein informed the committee that Diane Sims has written another article and it was published on October 29, 2021. He will forward the link to members.

**11.0 Next Meeting Date:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at 11:30 a.m., electronically.

## **12.0 Adjournment**

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Seconded by Laurie Maloney-Devlin

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

Start Time: 11:32 A.M.

End Time: 12:45 P.M.