



Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

MINUTES

A meeting of the Stratford Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) was held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 11:30 a.m., at the Stratford Rotary Complex in the Mansbridge Room.

Committee Members Present: Roger Koert – Chair Presiding, Diane Sims, Councillor Bonnie Henderson, Andy Mark, Peter Zein, Jamie Pritchard

Staff Present: Dan Sykes – Development Coordinator, Tatiana Dafoe – Clerk, Gabby Rodriguez – Accessibility, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Regrets: Pam Mugford, Geoff Krauter, Heather Contois

1. Call to Order

Roger Koert – Chair presiding, called the AAC meeting to order at 11:31 a.m.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None declared.

3. Adoption of the Previous Minutes – September 6, 2023 and February 7, 2023

Motion by Andy Mark

Seconded by Diane Sims

THAT the minutes from the Accessibility Advisory Committee meetings dated September 6, 2022 and February 7, 2023, be adopted as printed. Carried

4. Infrastructure & Development Services Update – Dan Sykes

Dan Sykes, Development Coordinator, provided the following update:

2022 City Projects Carried Over

1. Huron Street Reconstruction – Huron Street Bridge to John Street
 - Phase 1 complete and traffic signal work ongoing;
 - John Street requires minor restoration in the spring.

2. Argyle Street and McKenzie Street Reconstruction
 - Construction is complete.
3. Romeo Street at Verona Park Pedestrian Crossing
 - Minor work remaining.

2023 City Projects

1. Albert Street Reconstruction (Phase 1) – Waterloo Street to Front Street
 - Full road reconstruction, sanitary, storm and watermain replacement (total length = 520 m). Staff are currently working on the design which will go out to tender.
2. Ontario Street Watermain Replacement – Queen Street to Parkview Drive
 - Watermain replacement and road resurfacing (total length = 250 m). The project is currently out to tender with a closing date of March 8, 2023.
3. Portia Boulevard – Watermain Extension
 - Birnham Construction (contractor) to begin in the Spring;
 - There will be a directionally drilled watermain (total length = 60 m).
4. Erie Street Watermain Relining – Cambria Street to Monteith Avenue
 - Watermain relining of 150 mm cast iron main (total length = 500 m). This project is currently out to tender with a closing date of March 21, 2023.
5. Waldies Lane Reconstruction – Wellington Street to Dead End
 - Full road reconstruction, sanitary, storm and watermain replacement (total length = 100 m).
6. Annual Asphalt Resurfacing – various locations
 - Ontario Street – Waterloo Street to Parkview Drive (total length = 1,050 m);
 - Erie Street – Ontario Street to Monteith Avenue (total length = 1,275 m). This project is currently out to tender with a closing date of March 9, 2023.
7. Missing sidewalk sections to be completed in 2023:
 - Martin Street (East side) – Delamere Avenue to William Street;
 - John Street South (East side) – Centre Street to Cambria Street;
 - Cambria Street (South side) – John Street South to St. Vincent Street South;
 - Walnut Street (South side) – Railway Avenue to Dufferin Street.

The AAC's sidewalk and curb cut budget line requested for 2023 with the Engineering Division is once again \$50,000.00.

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The missing link of sidewalk at Lorne Avenue and Queensland Drive will be required to be expropriated if it is going to get connected. This stretch is on private property and the owner is not willing to permit a sidewalk to be installed.

The McCarthy Road bus stop (across from McCarthy Place) has been highlighted on the Transportation Master Plan. Staff is going to request the consultant look at sight lines and do an analysis on this location. The Development Coordinator will update the AAC once information is received.

Staff is investigating a sidewalk extension on McCarthy Road from the west limits past the Rotary Complex which would extend to Greenwood Drive on the North side. This project is dependent on budget approval.

There is currently \$40,000.00 included in the 2023 budget for Engineering to update crossing signals to be AODA compliant. The locations of the signals to be updated has not been confirmed.

The curb cut on Lakeside Drive at the Tom Patterson Theatre cannot be completed. Upon review of the Ontario Traffic Manual, this location does not meet the criteria as it is too close to the intersection at Lakeside Drive and Waterloo Street. A curb cut must be 200+ meters from the intersection to be a safe pedestrian crossover, and this location is approximately 130 meters from the intersection. The required distance of 200+ meters from the intersection is to avoid proliferation of traffic control devices in close proximity of each other. Staff is investigating reinstating the curb cut that currently exists on one side to full height to deter any perception that people may have that they can cross safely there.

The Development Coordinator has taken measurements of the sidewalk on Veteran's Drive from Ontario Street down to the entrance to the Cenotaph. Staff would remove this section of sidewalk, remove the curb-faced walk that is 1.5m and install 1.8m and install a railing on the inside of the sidewalk next to the hedge. They would also repair the landing at the entrance to Memorial Gardens. The approximate budget for this project is \$9,000.00.

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Seconded by Andy Mark

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee, subject to 2023 budget approval, spends up to a maximum of \$9,000.00 for sidewalk and curb cut repairs, railing installation and any other necessary repairs required for the sidewalk repairs on Veteran's Drive along Memorial Garden. Carried

The Development Coordinator advised he would contact the Parks, Forestry & Cemetery Manager to inquire if anything can be done to improve the pathway on the east side (along the building) leading into Memorial Gardens.

Councillor Henderson reported that staff will be decreasing the size of the garden near the Boathouse to have straight access into the new washrooms.

CN Rail will be completing work in late spring or early summer to repair the crossings at the Nile, Shakespeare, and Guelph Street areas and the crossing on Downie Street near St. David and Kent Street.

Staff is in communication with Goderich-Exeter Rail with hopes they will also complete their repairs this summer.

Roger Koert inquired if, in addition to the new sidewalk being installed on Martin Street, the City consider paving the stone dust path through the Arboretum Park and turning it into a multi-use trail. Councillor Henderson suggested they could also link the new Martin Street sidewalk with the sidewalk near the parking lot.

Motion by Peter Zein

Seconded by Andy Mark

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends to Stratford City Council that options be investigated to convert the existing stone dust path through Arboretum Park to a hard-surface multi-use trail to improve accessibility throughout the entire year. Carried

The installation of a pedestrian crossing on Romeo Street from Christopher Plummer Drive over to Verona Park is now complete.

Diane Sims inquired if staff could investigate possible sidewalk repairs on Dufferin Avenue between Blake Street and West Gore Street. The sidewalk has previously been marked for repairs a few years ago but has not been repaired. The Development Coordinator will arrange for inspectors to re-visit the site.

Roger Koert, Chair, inquired if the inspectors could also visit the corner of Waterloo and Albert Street (adjacent to the Post Office). The sidewalk grade in that area is difficult and the curb cut needs to extend further around the corner to line up with the crossing on the road.

5. Site Plan Review Sub-Committee Feedback Reports – Dan Sykes

None noted.

Dan Sykes, Development Coordinator, left the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

6. Transit

6.1 Parallel Transit Booking – Roger Koert

Roger Koert, Chair, advised he was contacted by a citizen asking if Stratford Transit would consider allowing riders who qualify for parallel transit, to ride standard transit for free. This may alleviate some of the scheduling difficulties

with parallel transit. For example, riders could ride standard transit to the grocery store and take parallel transit home with their groceries. The Clerk noted that if Committee members have questions, they can always e-mail the manager directly or direct the citizen with the concern to e-mail staff. Councillor Henderson confirmed with the Manager of Transit that the parallel transit pass is transferrable to use on standard transit as well.

7. Parking

None noted.

8. Report from Council on Accessibility Issues – Councillor Henderson

None noted.

9. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

9.1 Launch of FADM – Tatiana Dafoe, Clerk

The Clerk provided a memo with the agenda package outlining what has been done so far with the FADM. She inquired what the Committee would like to complete next and asked the following questions:

- What specific sections and topics are to be highlighted in a communication on the FADM;
- What key messaging would the AAC like to convey about the FADM;
- Which members are available to assist with drafting the messaging.

The Clerk suggested possibly creating a newsletter or a letter specifically for SABA. This information could also be posted on the Accessibility webpage for new developers or a new staff member to reference. The FADM document is not currently accessible, therefore cannot be posted to the website. It was noted that a copy can be obtained upon request. Peter Zein offered to forward a contact to the Clerk and she will also inquire if there might be organizations that could make the current manual accessible.

The Chair asked members to please forward their ideas on topics to highlight and messaging to the Clerk. Diane Sims volunteered to assist with this project.

9.2 Accessible Housing/Tax Deferral Programs

The Clerk provided the Committee with a memo regarding an update on the Community Improvement Plan (CIP) for Accessible Housing. The Planning Division will be at capacity supporting the Attainable Housing CIP, pursuing an Official Plan update, initiating the Green Buildings CIP, conducting a thorough update on the recently adopted Comprehensive Zoning By-law, as well as maintaining all daily operations. The intent is to still proceed with this project and it is slotted for the 2024 budget and is anticipated to come forward as an expansion request for 2024. Councillor Henderson stated that this is separate

from the request for a tax deferral program. The Clerk advised that clarification would be sought from staff on whether the tax deferral incentive is part of the Community Improvement Plan for Accessible Housing.

9.3 Annual Accessibility Award Presentation – Roger Koert/Diane Sims

Roger Koert and Diane Sims will be presenting the award to MacLeod's Scottish Shop at the Regular City Council meeting scheduled for Monday, March 27, 2023.

9.4 Plans for AAC Presentation to Council – Roger Koert, Peter Zein, Geoff Krauter, Andy Mark, Diane Sims

The working group will continue to work towards a presentation for the new Council. Gabby Rodriguez, Accessibility, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator will assist.

9.5 National AccessAbility Week (May 28 – June 3, 2023) – Roger Koert

Roger Koert stated that the focus for this year's National AccessAbility Week will be on re-introducing the StopGap Program with ramps for downtown businesses. There is funding already in place, as well as volunteers to build the ramps. Mr. Koert has the previous list of business who have ramps. The first step will be to reach out to those businesses to see if they are still using the ramps, if it is in good condition or needs to be replaced. There are 30 businesses on the list.

As part of this initiative, the previous request to update the program to allow ramps to remain deployed during the day will be put forward to Sub-committee and Council.

Jamie Pritchard, Diane Sims, and Councillor Henderson volunteered to help with this project. Once the project gets going, staff will inquire if the Corporate Communications Lead will assist with some social media coverage.

9.6 Patio Extensions – Diane Sims

Diane Sims inquired if the wooden boardwalks and patio extensions will be installed again this summer. The Clerk confirmed that a report was presented at the March 1, 2023, Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting. The report will be going to Committee and Reconvene Council on March 27, 2023. There are updated patio guidelines and fees in the Fees and Charges By-law that were also adopted. Subject to any changes at Council, the current model would be used again for this season. Diane Sims stated that the accessibility of the sidewalk extensions with railings could also be highlighted as part of National AccessAbility Week.

10. New Business

No new business noted.

11. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the AAC will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. Staff will forward the location to members prior to the meeting.

12. Adjournment

Motion by Jamie Pritchard

Seconded by Diane Sims

**THAT the March 7, 2023 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting adjourn.
Carried**

Start Time: 11:31 A.M.

End Time: 12:58 P.M.