



# MINUTES

## Fort Erie Accessibility Advisory Committee

### Meeting Date, Time, and Location

Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. at Stevensville Hall, 2508 Stevensville Road, Stevensville

### Members

Dennis Hernandez-Galeano, Chair  
Bev Ferris, Vice-Chair  
Gary Kooistra  
Adam McLeod  
Barbara McLeod  
Lori Brant (regrets)  
Veronica (Faith) Sparling  
Steve Gucciardi, Transit Representative (regrets)  
Councillor Ann-Marie Noyes

### Staff Resources

Keegan Gennings, Chief Building Official  
Sean Hutton, Facilities Supervisor (regrets)  
Bev Bradnam, Manager, Strategic Initiatives

1) **Call to Order**

The August 10, 2021 AAC meeting was called to order at 3:37 p.m.

2) **Approval of Minutes**

**Recommendation No. 1:**

**Moved by:** Gary Kooistra  
**Seconded by:** Adam McLeod

**THAT:** The October 28, 2020 Minutes of the Fort Erie Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be approved as printed.

**(CARRIED)**

3) **Development of Proposed AODA Standards**

The AAC reviewed the new draft Health Care Standard and provided input for a formal response to the Province. Bev also advised that she had requested the Town's Community Health Care Services Committee to provide comment but due to their meeting schedule, the Chair and Coordinator for the Committee provided a written response which will be included in the AAC's formal response. The AAC asked that thanks be provided to the Chair and Community Health Care Services Coordinator for their feedback.

3) **Development of Proposed AODA Standards**

It was agreed by all AAC members that the Health Care Standard should not only focus on hospitals but all Health Care practitioners or medical care providers, in most cases. As well, they will encourage the Province to include built environment standards into the Standard, similar to what has been included in the Education Standards.

The remaining Standards, as follows, will be reviewed by the Committee members and feedback provided to Bev so that a formal response can be provided to the Province.

**Grades K-12 Education** (closing dates for comments September 2, 2021):

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/development-proposed-kindergarten-grade-12-k-12-education-standards-2021-initial-recommendations>

**Post Secondary Education** (closing date for comments September 29, 2021):

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/development-proposed-postsecondary-education-standards-2021-initial-recommendations-report>

4) **Niagara Parkway Crossing**

Faith was contacted by someone with a mobility issue that was walking along the waterfront trail and wanted to cross the parkway to access Mather's Arch and Veteran's Way and then make their way to the Legion. They had asked if there was any way there could be some type of crossing that would allow a safe path of travel. Bev had explained that it is Niagara Parks Commission property and that to access Mather's Arch from the trail could be a safety issue if they were thinking of crossing at the bend in the road but perhaps it could be done safely at the base of Central Avenue. Bev followed up with Mayor Redekop, who sits on the Commission and he forwarded the request to the General Manager of the Niagara Parks Commission. The General Manager responded that staff will review the request and report back. Add to outstanding.

5) **Outstanding Matters**

1) Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee

- Accessible Bus Demo (deferred until Transit Governance Study completed).
- As Faith noted at our last informal meeting, the June Regional AAC meeting included presentations on Niagara's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, Brock District Placemaking Manual and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Niagara Region. Link to the agenda material and presentations can be found here:

<https://pub-niagararegion.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=16709>

5) **Outstanding Matters, continued**

2) Parking Concerns

Bev advised that the Engineering staff are working on final designs and locations for the new accessible spaces and will follow-up with the Manager, Engineering, for an update.

3) Fort Erie Active Transportation Committee (FEAT)

Dennis had no new updates as the Committee has not been able to meet.

4) Letter to 660 Garrison Road re Life Labs



Keegan advised that the new ramp has been constructed and it is a very smooth transition. A letter, on behalf of the Committee, will be forwarded to the owner thanking him for making their plaza more accessible. Remove from outstanding.

5) Community Theatre – Greater Fort Erie Secondary School

Confirmation has not yet been received.

6) 238 Bertie Street – Accessible Washroom

Keegan described the complaint received from a Town Councillor related to the new accessible washroom being closed for use. Keegan met with the property owner who explained that the cleaners had jammed the door and the automatic button was disabled. It is now fixed and available for use. Keegan also advised that the door is very heavy and the buttons should be used to open and lock. Keegan also advised that when the washroom is in use a light is activated. Remove from outstanding.

6) **Site Plans**

Keegan provided a site plan for a 50' x 80' cannabis building on a farm. The building is not open to the public and accessibility requirements do not really apply as it is on a farm.

7) **Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (MYAP) 2019-2023**

Due to time constraints, the MYAP was not discussed.

8) **Other Matters**

1) Hearing Loop – Customer Service Unit at Town Hall

Bev advised that she recently had read about a hearing induction system that was installed at the Grimsby Library to help persons with a hearing disability deal with the addition of plexiglass at customer service counters. The Hearing Assistive Technology Group representative, part of ITTS Canada, came out to the Town Hall and provided a quotation for a hearing loop induction system at the centre kiosk at the Customer Service desk. The AAC's budget for contracted services was enough to cover the cost of the system and it was installed for free as we are local. As the cost is a result of COVID it will be charged to the COVID budget. Bev explained that someone with a hearing aid that has a "T" cell or a cochlear implant is able to hear the customer service representative through the loop system. Bev also noted that the system also amplifies both sides of the desk for those without a hearing disability. Consideration may be given to purchase additional systems once we see how well the system is used once Town Hall is opened to the public. Gary agreed to come in and try the new system once Town Hall is open even though his hearing aid doesn't have the T cell.

2) Construction of Pedestrian Crossovers along the Friendship Trail at Ridge Road and Gorham Road

Bev advised that Council has approved the construction of pedestrian crossovers along the Friendship Trail at Ridge Road and Gorham Road and she has confirmed with Infrastructure staff that the crossings will have audible signals.

3) Audible Signal at the south side of Thomson and Garrison Road

Adam advised that the signals, both ways, where Golden Nugget is located do not have the audible beep when the button is pressed. Bev will follow-up with her contact at the Region. Add to outstanding.

4) On-Demand Transit

Councillor Noyes provided an overview of the new On Demand Transit that is starting in October, with two of the six vehicles being accessible. The Councillor explained that you may have to share a ride but once requested the vehicle will show within 30 minutes and there is the ability to track where your ride is on a mobile app. The Committee thanked Steve and Tokmakjian for all of their support in providing accessible conventional transit to the Town over the past several years. The Councillor advised that drivers of the current system are being encouraged to apply to the new provider.

9) **Date for Next Meeting**

The next AAC meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 – tentatively planned to be held at Town Hall - Conference Room #1 as long as social distancing can be met.

10) **Adjournment**

**Recommendation No. 2:**

**Moved by: Adam McLeod**  
**Seconded by: Gary Kooistra**

**THAT: The August 10, 2021 meeting of the Fort Erie Accessibility Advisory Committee does not hereby adjourn at 5:24p.m.**

**(CARRIED)**

Minutes recorded and prepared by

Minutes approved by:

Bev Bradnam, DPA, CMM III  
Manager, Strategic Initiatives

Dennis Hernandez-Galeano  
Chair