



# MINUTES

## Fort Erie Accessibility Advisory Committee

### Meeting Date, Time, and Location

Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. at Stevensville Memorial Hall or via Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/219560823>

### Members

Dennis Hernandez-Galeano, Chair  
Bev Ferris, Vice-Chair  
Gary Kooistra  
Adam McLeod  
Barbara McLeod (regrets)  
Lori Brant (regrets)  
Veronica (Faith) Sparling (via Zoom)  
Steve Gucciardi, Transit Representative (via Zoom)  
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 meeting was called to order at 4:47 p.m. Due to COVID-19 constraints, the AAC just had the bare minimum members present to ensure quorum and others joined over zoom.

2) **Approval of Minutes**

**Recommendation No. 1:**

**Moved by:** Bev Ferris  
**Seconded by:** Adam McLeod

**THAT:** The February 25, 2020 Minutes of the Fort Erie Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be approved as printed.

**(CARRIED)**

3) **Site Plans (moved up on agenda to accommodate Keegan's schedule)**

1) 3255/3231 Snyder Street – Avondale addition

The AAC reviewed the site plan showing an addition to the existing building. Keegan noted that they are still planning on maintaining the drive through and will be including an accessible parking space and new ramp into the existing building. Keegan confirmed that they will meet new requirements for ramps, slopes, etc. Councillor Noyes questioned if they will require an accessible washroom and Keegan responded that they may, based on the overall building size, noting that if a new building is 300 sq. metres or more the barrier free requirements kick in.

2) 3990 Erie Road – restaurant addition

The AAC reviewed the site plan for the addition to San Vito's restaurant on the east side of the property. The addition is two stories and 154 sq. metres with the top section partially open-air. Discussion took place regarding access as the present patio and restaurant does not have an accessible entrance. Keegan advised that there are ramps into the building and ramps and landing into the newer section as well as a barrier free washroom. Keegan confirmed that parking is not required as it is in the downtown area.

3) Ridgeway-Crystal Beach Fire Station

The AAC reviewed the site plan for the new amalgamated Station 4 and 6 located across from the Crystal Ridge Arena. Discussion took place regarding the placement of the accessible parking spaces for the public in relation to the main entrance and requested that consideration be given to making the door exiting the training room, which is closest to the accessible parking spaces, an accessible door for easier access. Keegan noted that the distance is approximately 22 metres (70 feet) and is similar in distance to coming into Town Hall. Alternatively, Councillor Noyes asked that consideration be given to placing the accessible spaces closer to the main entrance, in front of the building, if there is room to accommodate.

4) 315 Garrison Road – Commercial Plaza

The AAC reviewed the site plan for a new commercial plaza on Garrison Road that provides parking in behind the buildings. It was noted that there is a covered walkway around the buildings and a 6" curb. Keegan will review the civil drawings to ensure that there are proper curb cuts. The AAC asked that consideration be given to moving one Type A accessible parking space so that it has easier access to the building on the east side shown on the drawings. The site plan shows three accessible spaces but Keegan still has to confirm that the number of spaces meet the requirements. Bev advised that she thought it was 2 Type A and 2 Type B required. Keegan advised that the additional 1.5 m aisle required may end up eliminating a space but he would ask for consideration to move the space.

4) **Annual Accessibility Report**

Bev provided an overview of the draft Annual Accessibility Report and shared her screen with those online. The Committee agreed that quite a bit was accomplished even with the impact of COVID-19. Bev advised that she would include the above additional site plans reviewed at today's meeting and Councillor Noyes also noted that in dealing with the Dollarama, we should include that we educated them on Adam's customer service experience and the Head Office ensured the Committee that all staff will be properly trained in accessible customer service. Bev will make those changes for her final report to Council, scheduled for November 9, 2020.

**Recommendation No. 2:**

**Moved by:           Bev Ferris**  
**Seconded by:       Adam McLeod**

**THAT:     The Accessibility Advisory Committee approves the draft Annual Accessibility Report, as amended, that will be presented to Council at the November 9, 2020 Council-in-Committee meeting.**

**(CARRIED)**

5) **Travelling on the Transit**

Dennis advised that he rode the conventional transit with Jennifer Pennell-Ajje earlier in the year and it was his first time actually riding on the bus. They caught the Jarvis Street bus at the Leisureplex Municipal Hub and got off at the Centennial Library and then went on the bus returning to the Hub. Dennis advised that the driver was very knowledgeable and did a good job securing his chair. Dennis noted it was a nice ride and quick and a lot of the riders were surprised to see him on the bus. He also wants to ride on the Crystal Beach/Ridgeway route when time permits and noted that the experience was very positive. Dennis advised that there was only one issue and it was on the return trip as there is no sidewalk at the corner of Central Avenue and Gilmore Road and a portion of the road that he always thought was a turning lane is actually the shoulder of the road. Bev B. noted that our former member Alvin always wanted audible signals at that crossing as he always found it dangerous as someone who was blind and walked quite often on their own. Dennis wondered if the sidewalk could be extended to the hub or lines painted. Councillor Noyes advised that she had a Traffic Coordinating Committee meeting earlier today but would bring it up at the next meeting.

6) **Outstanding Matters**

1) **Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee**

- Accessible Bus Demo – deferred by Niagara Region until Transit Governance Study is complete. Faith had nothing new to report on the Regional AAC.

6) **Outstanding Matters**

2) Parking Concerns

Dennis advised that after all of the new parking spots were put in place at Walmart he has noticed that some people parking in the accessible parking will drive forward cutting through the hatch marks, which can be dangerous for persons getting out of their vehicles. Dennis wondered if a half pole or some type of barrier could be placed so that this doesn't continue. Keegan stated that it is no different from cars parked in regular spaces pulling through and Councillor Noyes remarked that it may be easier for some people than backing up.

3) Fort Erie Active Transportation Committee (FEAT)

Dennis advised that there was no update but noted that Chris Millar left for the Region and so Signe Hansen is filling in as Committee Liaison until Chris' vacant position is filled. Councillor Noyes advised that she believes that the position has been offered to someone.

4) Letter to 660 Garrison Road re Life Labs

Keegan advised that the owner has sent him several emails and is having trouble getting a contractor in to do the work. Remain on outstanding.

5) Community Theatre – Greater Fort Erie Secondary School

Keegan advised that the rails were supposed to be installed in February but he has not yet received confirmation. Remain on outstanding until confirmed.

6) Accessible Taxi Cabs

Councillor Noyes advised that she received some information on an accessible taxi service out of Port Colborne called Trillium Taxi and she was provided with a list of the rates. The Councillor noted that it was approximately \$25 to ride from Crystal Beach to downtown Fort Erie and Bev F. advised that rate was in line for taxi service. It was noted that the FAST service provides door to door service for a fraction of that cost. Councillor Noyes noted that the Region of Niagara is also looking at on-demand bus services and that those vehicles would be accessible.

7) 238 Bertie Street – Request for Funding

Keegan confirmed that the building permit for the accessible washroom was approved and he will follow-up with the inspector regarding the location of the barrier free washroom that was required as part of the funding provided by Council. Councillor Noyes was thanked for being supportive of the additional recommendation as the AAC had fought for over 10 years to have an accessible washroom constructed in the medical centre.

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

A list of the public comments received during the MYAP consultation was attached to the Agenda but will be deferred until the next meeting.

8) **Other Matters**

Keegan advised that he recently saw a portable ramp in front of a house in Welland and it was purchased through AM Ramp and had metal hand rails and grading on the floor. Bev F. advised that Silver Cross also sells them. Keegan advised that this type of temporary/portable ramp is good to know for individuals coming in and asking the Building Department about temporary ramps. More details can be found at: <https://www.amramp.com/local/sw-ontario>

Councillor Noyes also noted that Lewis & Krall closed their home care business and sold portable ramps and the Black Creek Community Centre purchased one.

9) **Date for Next Meeting**

The next AAC meeting will be determined by the Chair.

10) **Adjournment**

**Recommendation No. 3:**

**Moved by: Gary Kooistra**  
**Seconded by: Councillor Noyes**

**THAT: The October 28, 2020 meeting of the Fort Erie Accessibility Advisory Committee does now hereby adjourn at 6:10 p.m.**

**(CARRIED)**

Minutes recorded and prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

Bev Bradnam, DPA, CMM III  
Manager, Strategic Initiatives

Dennis Hernandez-Galeano  
Chair