



A meeting of the **Stratford Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)** was held on the above date at 11:30 a.m., 82 Erie Street – Falstaff Room, Stratford ON

Committee Present: Michelle Good – Chair Presiding, Councillor Bonnie Henderson, Peter Zein, Judy Hopf, Jessica Jantzi, Diane Sims, Julie Patterson

Staff Present: Julia Opie – Accessibility Coordinator, *Nick Sheldon – Engineering Division, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Also Present: *Montana Wilson – MTE Consultants, *Ben Valiquette – MTE Consultants, Ken Wood

Absent: Peg Huettlin, Laurie Maloney Devlin

MINUTES

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Michelle Good - Chair, called the AAC meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

2.0 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None declared.

3.0 ADOPTION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES – January 8, 2019

Motion by Judy Hopf, seconded by Julie Patterson that the minutes dated January 8, 2019 be adopted as amended. Carried.

4.0 DELEGATES: Ben Valiquette and Montana Wilson – MTE – Update on Rotary Parking Lot Design Plans

Ben Valiquette reviewed the updates to the plans, taking into consideration the suggestions the AAC made at the last meeting. They have added a multi-use path that circles the entire outer edge of the Rotary Complex and the Agriplex. They managed to increase the pathway from 1.5m to 2.0m. The existing entrance to the subdivision on the west side will now have a raised speed bump crossing as well as a paved pathway to the opening from the road.

Members have suggested that the sidewalk widths be increased from 1.5m to 1.8m. Mr. Valiquette explained that the difficulty is trying to maintain the drive aisles and work with the existing light standard placement. Mr. Zein noted that if the sidewalks are 1.5m, two wheelchairs cannot pass one another. Julia Opie explained that if the sidewalks are 1.5m, then legislation states that for every 30m of sidewalk, a passing area must be provided.

Peter Zein suggested that at the back corner of the Rotary Complex where you turn right to go back to the Agriplex, possibly the first parking spot along the south side of the building should not be used, as it may create visual difficulties for crossing. Mr. Valiquette noted that the crossings at this corner are the raised ones, which will hopefully slow traffic down as well as bump-outs to slow traffic.

MTE has also suggested in their design that the transit buses enter with all stops at the Rotary and Agriplex unloading and loading passengers on the right-hand side, on the sidewalk to assist with safety concerns of pedestrians having to cross through traffic.

MTE will provide Jim Bryson an update on design plans and provide the AAC with updated drawings.

*Ben Valiquette and Montana Wilson no longer present (12:08 p.m.)

5.0 INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES UPDATE – Nick Sheldon

Nick Sheldon reported that the tender for the 2019-20 concrete work will be going out next month. He reported that staff has reviewed the list of concerns from the January AAC meeting. Wellington Street sidewalk will be replaced from the corner to the first driveway. The inspector is going to assess the area on Waterloo Street, near Radio Cab. The Erie Street parking lot sidewalk leading to Allen's Alley requires grinding to repair. This area will be addressed in greater detail should the Erie parking lot upgrades go ahead. The request for a ramp on Veteran's Drive near Erie can be investigated this year. Mornington Street sidewalk will move ahead once the last half of the utilities have been moved and the land purchase has been finalized. Erie Street preliminary drawings are complete; however local improvements will slow down the process of the new sidewalks being installed.

*Nick Sheldon no longer present (12:20 p.m.)

6.0 PARKING

No new updates.

7.0 TRANSIT

Parallel Transit is purchasing a new mobility bus in the spring to replace an older one in their current fleet. Councillor Henderson also reported that in the 2019 budget, the hiring of a new Transit Supervisor has been requested.

Ken Wood inquired if the AAC works towards helping mobility challenged citizens only or do they focus on the greater city. Julia Opie explained that as this is the Accessibility Advisory Committee, their main focus is on the accessibility of all aspects of the city, including transit. Mr. Wood stated that he has suggested to the City that a transit advisory committee would be beneficial.

*Ken Wood no longer present (12:25 p.m.)

8.0 SITE PLAN REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE

The site plan review committee reviewed two plans this month and copies of the feedback reports have been provided to the AAC.

9.0 AAC PROJECTS UPDATE

- (a) Stratford Sporting Facilities Accessibility Review – B. Henderson**
Deferred to spring.

10.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- (a) AAC Benches Update – Julia Opie**
Julia Opie reported that the two benches have been picked up and paid for. They will be installed in the spring on concrete pads.
- (b) Stratford Accessibility Guidelines – Julia Opie**
Julia Opie reported she is waiting for the zoning by-law to be updated and for staff to review both documents to ensure their information matches. Ms. Opie would also like to look at adding bariatric seating to the theatre category.
- (c) Annual Status Update – Multi-Year Accessibility Plan – Julia Opie**
Julia Opie circulated a draft copy of the Annual Status Update for 2018-2022 multi-year accessibility plan. Ms. Opie requested feedback from the AAC to include in the draft. Members suggested that universal design be the focus of all aspects for the city. Once complete, it will go to the AODA Steering Committee and then to Council for final approval.
- (d) Stratford Home Show (April 12-14, 2019)**
Councillor Henderson will circulate a sign-up sheet for shifts at the show.
- (e) AAC Terms of Reference – Annual Review**
Julia Opie circulated the revisions discussed at the January meeting. She will forward staff the list of AODA requirements to add to the role section. Further discussion at the March meeting.

11.0 NEW BUSINESS

(a) 2019/20 AODA Compliance Consultant Work Plan – Julie Opie

Julia Opie shared with the committee the work plan she submits to the AODA Steering Committee each year outlining what she will be working on. The work plan can change, depending on changes in AODA standards.

(b) Comprehensive Wayfinding Strategy (Feb. 5/19) – Michelle Good

Michelle Good and Peter Zein are attending the wayfinding strategy session this afternoon as AAC representatives. The city is looking at changing all signage within the city and is consulting with stakeholders and citizens for feedback. Julia Opie noted that at some stage in the process, the AAC should be consulted. She can forward staff the AODA guidelines on accessible signage. Some suggestions from committee members: signage should be larger font and consistent throughout the city. Placement of the signs should be the same at each street, i.e. all on the left or all on the right. Possibly add signage for major intersections ahead, i.e. 300m left to Erie Street. Keep signage away from trees.

(c) March of Dimes Opening Doors For Accessibility (Mar. 29/19)

Julia Opie encouraged members to try and attend this event on March 29th from 9-1:30 p.m. in London. There is no cost to attend and lunch is provided. You must pre-register.

(d) Fare Equity – Transit

Julia Opie explained that after the war, CNIB offered free municipal transit for members with valid cards. However, not every municipality offers free transit for CNIB members. Some offer for conventional transit and not for specialized transit, some offer for both and some no longer offer free rides for people with a CNIB card. They feel it is discriminatory for people with other types of disabilities who do not get free rides. Currently, in the City of Stratford, CNIB card holders are permitted to ride conventional transit without charge. However, on specialized transit, it is not free. Moving forward, Stratford must decide to continue to honour CNIB members the free rides on conventional transit and charging for specialized or possibly move to a system that is based on your income, not your disability. Ms. Opie will raise this issue at the next Accessibility Steering Committee meeting and possibly set up a meeting and include AAC members and staff. Jessica Jantzi noted that if a citizen has passport funding, their passes will be covered. Councillor Henderson stated that ODSP also offers reduced transit rates.

(e) Erie/Ontario Street Crossing

Julia Opie discussed crossing Erie Street at Ontario. There has been previous discussion regarding the audio signals at this large busy intersection. Ms. Opie visited the site to test the crossing signals. Once at the median the centre of the crossing or slightly past, you could no longer hear the audio signals. She has

spoken to staff and they have doubled the time on the crossing, allowing longer to cross.

(f) AccessMate App

Julia Opie shared some information from the University of Waterloo regarding an app allowing you to enter the route you are travelling within the city and it will assist you with accessibility information. She will keep the committee updated on the progress of this initiative.

12.0 NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, March 5, 2019 – 11:30 am – Avon Mtg. Room

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Julie Patterson, seconded by Jessica Jantzi that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

Time: 1:25 p.m.