

**Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee
Meeting Agenda
Thursday, December 9, 2021
Zoom Meeting**

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Present: Stephen Barker (Grimsby), Karen Lemieux (West Lincoln), Joey Hewitt (Thorold), Donna Herrington (JAAC Coordinator), Ann Villalta (Pelham), Brenda Mitchell (Lincoln), Carole Furher (Lincoln), Rhys Evans (Pelham), Mary Murray (Admin Group Rep.), Dianne Rintjema (Lincoln Council Rep), Victoria Wilson (Thorold Council Rep). LeeAnn Cayer (Guest).

Regrets: Kathleen Kelly (Lincoln), Andrea Mamo (Port Colborne), Dave Antaya (NOTL), Laura Slade (Port Colborne).

1. **Call to order.** Due to technical difficulties, Stephen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Approval of Agenda**
Be it resolved that the agenda is approved as presented. Moved by Karen Lemieux, seconded by Joey Hewitt. CARRIED.
3. **Approval of Minutes from October 28, 2021**
Be it resolved that the meeting minutes of October 28, 2021, be approved as presented. Moved by Dianne Rintjema, seconded by Brenda Mitchell. CARRIED.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Letter to Councils, CAO's and Regional Council Representatives

Just a reminder that all correspondence from the JAAC to Council or other members and staff must go through the Clerks. We should not be sending correspondence directly as this causes confusion and does not ensure that it is shared equally with all Council. In future, Donna Herrington will clarify who is to forward correspondence when emailing. Many of the JAAC Councils supported our letter and raised the issue at Regional Council. We received a response to our concerns from the Region. According to the Regional Councillor in Lincoln, the Region is “working on the accessibility of the Transit app”.

6. New Business

a) Acknowledgement of Aboriginal Land

Be it resolved that the JAAC will acknowledge the use of aboriginal land going forward. Moved by Rhys Evans, seconded by Victoria Wilson. CARRIED.
Mary Murray will send wording for JAAC to use at the beginning of each meeting.

b) Niagara Regional Transit and newspaper article

Donna Herrington will put the article on our Facebook page.

c) Council Zoom meetings

It became obvious when the JAAC attended Zoom Council meetings that each municipality has a different level of accessibility. The committee decided to formulate a letter with recommendations for each Council so that there is continuity across the board. The letter will include an inventory of barriers to participation and a list of recommendations to remove those barriers.

Be in resolved that the JAAC will meet on January 13, 2021, to formulate this letter and to discuss goals/develop a workplan for the coming year. Moved by Stephen Barker, seconded by Rhys Evans, CARRIED.

d) Email from woman in Thorold

A citizen approached the JAAC regarding the lack of accessibility on the North side of Front Street in Thorold. Joey directed the citizen to local city staff for discussion and the staff is working on a resolution to this issue. This is reminder that JAAC should be informed of changes to municipal plans.

e) Community News

Thorold –

- Victoria Wilson thanked Joey Hewitt for the excellent presentation to Council. There is some discussion in Thorold about moving to online voting for the upcoming election. Victoria suggested a letter be sent to Council regarding any barriers that this approach presents. Donna Herrington will also discuss training with the Clerk and will update as appropriate.

Pelham –

- Rhys will direct Pelham staff to Port Colborne staff to discuss procedures for QR Code for vaccination receipts.

Lincoln –

- This past Tuesday Joey and Kathleen attended a meeting about the Jordan Lions Park in Lincoln
- Lincoln has a \$5 million dollar budget for outdoor upgrades
- They will address basic accessibility upgrades: benches, picnic tables, paved paths and areas of shade
- There is a survey available if anyone is interested in participating – Speak Up Lincoln. Dianne Rintjema will send a link to the survey to the JAAC.

7. **Next Meeting** – Thursday, January 13, 2022

8. Adjournment

Be it resolved the meeting is adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Motion by Rhys Evans, seconded by Stephen Barker. CARRIED.