

Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 14, 2020
Zoom Meeting
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Present: Dianne Rintjema (Lincoln), Brenda Mitchell (Lincoln), Joey Hewitt (Thorold), Victoria Wilson (Thorold), Stephen Barker (Grimsby), Karen Lemieux (West Lincoln), Carole Furher (Lincoln), Dave Antaya (NOTL), Rhys Evans (Pelham), Ann Villalta (Pelham), Donna Delvecchio (Admin Group Rep.), Donna Herrington (JAAC Coordinator)

Regrets: Rachel Brown (Grimsby), Kathleen Kelly (Lincoln)

1. **Call to order.** Stephen called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. **Approval of Agenda**

Be it resolved that the agenda is approved as presented. Moved by Rhys Evans seconded by Karen Lemieux. CARRIED.

3. **Approval of Minutes from December 10, 2020**

Be it resolved that the minutes of December 10, 2020 are approved as presented. Moved by Dianne Rintjema, seconded by Dave Antaya. CARRIED.

Business Arising from the Minutes

4. a) **We Are Accessible Award - Accessibility Checklist for West Niagara Chiropractic and Wellness Centre.**

Karen reviewed the checklist results. This business approached us for the award and is still working on several items to improve accessibility. They scored an 82%. They would like us to come back when their renovations are complete and re-assess them. The group decided to award them the certificate to acknowledge their accessibility efforts and to give them the We Are Accessible decal once we have re-assessed them. The business asked about making their website accessible. Donna will send Karen some information on website checkers for accessibility.

b) Transit on Demand App Accessibility

Stephen advised the Region that the Transit App is not accessible to screen readers. The Region advised they intend to work on this and address accessibility once the pilot phase of the project is over and it goes to tender for a permanent service provider. Dianne will investigate through the Region the cost of making the App accessible.

6. **New Business:**

a) Priorities for 2021-2022

- **Meeting schedule** – The current schedule – every other month on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm still works for the group. Donna will prepare and distribute a list of meeting dates.
- **We Are Accessible Award** – the group will continue with this award.
- **Grimsby Chamber of Commerce – other Chambers?** – the group will work with the Grimsby Chamber and will prepare a presentation for the other chambers in the region. We will start with an introductory letter to be reviewed at the March meeting.
- **Educational campaign for businesses** – the group agreed to do this. We will prepare an educational campaign about accessibility as well as funding sources available.
- **Meeting with other AAC's** – the group wishes to move ahead with this in the hopes that we can have a Zoom Conference in May 2021
- **Meeting with Councils** – the group agreed this was a priority and a short presentation should be prepared for all JAAC Councils.
- **Audits** – Donna will conduct audits of a maximum of 10 facilities per municipality in the coming year.

7. **Community News**

Pelham

- The We Are Accessible Award photos from Pelham have not been uploaded to our Facebook page – Donna H. to rectify.
- Steve Bauer Trail – there is a petition to save some trees on the trail before development can begin.

Thorold

- Staff have been trained in Accessible Document creation to assist with ensuring website accessibility is maintained. Any website updates are to be vetted through the Clerk before posting.

8. **Next Meeting** – Thursday, March 11, 2021, 6:30 pm via Zoom

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm – moved by Rhys Evans, seconded by Brenda Mitchell.