

**Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee of Lincoln, West Lincoln,  
Pelham, Thorold, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Grimsby and Port Colborne  
Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, May 8, 2025**

**City of Thorold City Hall, Committee Room 1  
3540 Schmon Parkway  
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Dan Whipple (Pelham) Dave Antaya (NOTL), Joey Hewitt (Thorold), Rhys Evans (Pelham), Lauren Bubnic (NOTL), Rebecca Hill (Lincoln), Dianne Rintjema (Lincoln) Lisa Peso (Grimsby), Jennifer Thiessen (Lincoln), Janice Desroches (Thorold), Jennifer Korstanje (Grimsby)

**Regrets:** Laura Slade (Port Colborne)

**Guests:** Andrew Edwards, Planner, Town of Pelham

1. **Call to order.** The meeting was called to order by Dan at 6:31 p.m.

2. **Approval of the Agenda –**

Two changes to the agenda: Item #4 – Presentation by Dave Patano has been deferred to the September meeting. Rhys is adding Pelham Fire Hall under New Business.

Be it resolved that the agenda is approved as amended. Moved by Rhys Evans, seconded by Lisa Peso. CARRIED.

3. **Approval of the Minutes of March 13, 2025 –**

Be it resolved that the Minutes of March 13, 2025, are approved as presented. Moved by Dave Antaya, seconded by Joey Hewitt. CARRIED.

4. **Dave Patano, Treat Accessibly –** moved to September 18, 2025, meeting.

5. **Town of Pelham, Planner Presentation –** Andrew Edwards, Planner

Andrew gave his presentation to the committee clarifying the requirements of a Site Plan review. Donna will circulate the presentation slides to JAAC members when distributing the minutes.

## **Business Arising from the Minutes:**

### **6. JAAC Accessibility Award - discuss nominations**

Donna to follow up with Rhys to file his nominations. Other nominations received were discussed including:

- Marlin Travel – for ramp to business entrance
- Pic's Motor Clinic – for installation of automatic door
- Upper Canada Cheese Company – for installing ramp to business entrance
- DeVries Fruit Farm – for excellent customer service
- Dentist – for installation of automatic door
- Sobeys in all our jurisdictions -for quiet shopping opportunities and good employment accessibility as well as general good built environment
- For all JAAC municipalities – for the good work they have done to comply with the AODA
- Meridan Community Centre, Pelham – for good built environment and employment accessibility
- NOTL Community Centre – for good built environment

Other businesses to consider:

- Camden General Store – Rebecca will check it out
- Wineries – Gretzky Winery, Jackson Triggs – Dave will check these out. Janice says that Triggs is great for people who are neurodivergent.
- The Committee felt we should reacknowledge all businesses who were given the award in the last round and they should get a new decal
- We should do a press release acknowledging all winners and make sure they are listed on the municipal websites.

The group decided to extend the deadline for nominations for one week until Friday, May 16, 2025. Donna asked that members fill out the nomination form and send them to her for record keeping purposes.

## **New Business:**

### **7. Pelham Fire Hall #1 – Site Plan Review**

Dan asked Donna to request the Plan in the regular format for circulation to the JAAC as it is easier online to review.

### **8. Community News**

- Dave was in Fort Erie and saw a Stop Gap Initiative ramp at a local business.
- Dave shared that NOTL has a Discretionary Funds Grant that will receive applications until May 26, 2025. Can the JAAC make an application for physical accessibility or a website audit? Donna will research whether the JAAC is eligible as a committee of Council and advise the group.
- Dan has had some dealings with the Town of Caledon. The Town has made Universal Design a part of its mandate as a municipality. Can we get the JAAC municipalities to adopt this principle/concept of Universal Design? The committee will explore this option in future.
- Jennifer Tiessen attended the Town of Lincoln Council meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup> on behalf of the JAAC and received the Council's Proclamation of National Accessibility Week for May 24 – May 31, 2025.

### **9. Next Meeting:**

The Committee decided not to meet over the summer, so the next meeting will be **Thursday, September 18, 2025**, from 6:30-8:30 pm. Location: City of Thorold City Hall, Committee Room 1, Thorold ON. Format to be hybrid (in person/Zoom).

### **10. Adjournment**

Rhys motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 pm. CARRIED