

**Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee of
Lincoln, West Lincoln, Pelham, Thorold, Niagara-on-the-Lake,
Grimsby and Port Colborne
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 12, 2026
City of Thorold City Hall, Committee Room 1
3540 Schmon Parkway
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

Present: Joey Hewitt (Thorold), Rhys Evans (Pelham), Rebecca Hill (Lincoln), Jennifer Thiessen (Lincoln), Dan Whipple (Pelham) Dave Antaya (NOTL), Dianne Rintjema (Lincoln), Jennifer Korstanje (Grimsby) Janice Desroches (Thorold), Justin Letourneau, City of Thorold, Donna Herrington (The Herrington Group).

Regrets: Jennifer Thiessen (Lincoln), Lisa Peso (Grimsby), Laura Slade (Port Colborne)

1. Call to order

Dan called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2. Presentation – Grimsby Master Beamer Plan, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, Kerry Royer and Natalie Green

Kerry and Nancy presented the status of the Beamer site and asked the JAAC for input on accessibility features of the site. Accessibility washrooms are needed and it was suggested to install them close to the main parking lot. Also, there were some questions about access to the accessible lookout area.

It was suggested that NPCA consider conducting an accessibility audit of the site. The committee also suggested that good accessible signage is needed throughout the site, possibly with the addition of QR codes.

The JAAC remains available to NPCA to consult on accessibility as needed.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Be it resolved that the agenda is approved as presented. Moved by Dave Antaya, seconded by Rhys Evans. CARRIED.

4. Approval of the Minutes of January 8, 2026

Be it resolved that the minutes of January 8, 2026, are approved as presented. Moved by Rhys Evans, seconded by Joey Hewitt. CARRIED.

Business Arising from the Minutes:

5. No Barrier Business Accessibility Award – Lincoln – Update

Donna clarified that this award was a project of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and is separate from the JAAC awards.

Dianne indicated that wording describing the award has been created. Donna will circulate this to the committee. The committee is welcome to offer feedback. The committee will select the winner for the Chamber in September.

6. Community Guides/Website Accessibility Pages Subcommittee Update

Donna apologized for not bringing the subcommittee together before this meeting. She will schedule a follow-up meeting after March Break.

7. Accessibility Matters Here Award – Campaign to begin in April 2026

Donna presented the potential logos for review by the group. All logos were reviewed but Logo 9 was the preferred design. The committee asked that the international symbol of access (the active wheelchair) be used. The committee asked for the sunflower symbol to have its traditional colouring. Also, the group asked that the symbols representing disabilities be slightly larger and placed in a circle around the wording. Donna will discuss it with the designer and send an updated version via email for review and approval.

This choice will be shared with the St. Catharines AAC, and we will compare notes and hopefully agree on a project logo.

The campaign will begin April 10, 2026, with nominations closing and being reviewed at our next meeting on May 14, 2026.

The committee was asked to actively search for nominees and to circulate campaign materials within their networks. Nominations can be brought by JAAC members or organizations can self-nominate.

New Business:

8. Multi-Year Accessibility Plan – Public and Staff Consultation Questions Review

Donna had previously sent an email to the committee and the Administrative Group about the MYAP and the public consultation process. The consultation questionnaires were reviewed; one for staff and one for public. The committee chose questions as requested by Donna.

The consultation process will begin on May 5, 2026, and will continue until June 30, 2026. Donna will circulate the survey response report via email and the individual MYAPs by September 1, 2026. The MYAPs will be approved at the September meeting of the JAAC and then go to Council for approval before the election.

9. Community News

a. Town of Pelham – Harold Black Park Renovation – Support Letter

Donna was asked for a support letter for renovations at Harold Black Park. Renovations include washroom changes and path installation; Donna will circulate the letter to the committee.

b. Thorold Curb cuts and Crosswalk

Donna received a complaint from a member of the public regarding the perceived need for curb cuts on Front Street. Donna asked the Thorold members to go with her to investigate. Joey and Janice will attend with Donna.

The City is compliant with the AODA in this area, but perhaps a crosswalk may be helpful to increase accessibility. She will arrange a visit through Thorold's Clerk.

c. NOTL Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Invitation – March 27, 2026

The JAAC has been invited to the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Stop Gap Initiative ramps in NOTL. Dan will attempt to attend; Dave will be there. Janice will attend, and Donna will attend, if possible.

10. **Next Meeting** – Thursday May 14, 2026; 6:30-8:00 p.m. Hybrid Zoom/In-person

11. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Moved by Dan, seconded by Dave.