

St. Thomas Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee

**MINUTES
May 27, 2021**

Location: Teams Video Meeting
Time: 9:00am
Present: Cathy Topping, Councillor Stephen Peters, Sheila Rodaway, Tracey Tiersma, Ken Lizotte, Adrian Williams, L. McClure; J. Henderson, A. Hussain
Absent: Amy McWhirter; Brenda Ryan

9:04 a.m. The meeting convened with C. Topping, Chair, presiding.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

NIL

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Motion by: Councillor Peters – S. Rodaway

THAT: The minutes of the meeting held on April 29, 2021 be confirmed.

Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of 2021 Accessibility Plan

Motion by: K. Lizotte – L. McClure

THAT: The 2021 Accessibility Plan be approved by the committee.

Carried.

REPORTS of COMMITTEES

1. Budget: Nothing to report.
2. Special Events: Nothing to report.
3. Site Plan Control: Nothing to report

NEW BUSINESS (Cont'd)

2. Recently the YMCA added a 5th value of inclusivity to their Core Values. With this in mind, their priority is to become more accessible to all. Members were consulted on the prioritization of automated door upgrades within their facility. Jerad Henderson, General Manager of the Family YMCA of St. Thomas-Elgin walked the committee members through the intended prioritizations of both the first and 2nd floor plans. Committee members generally agreed with the doors that were chosen by YMCA staff to be automated. Aside from this, committee members suggested that non-accessible washrooms on the 2nd floor be prioritized to be made accessible. Additional comments were to include an accessible door on staff rooms. And it was suggested that the outside push button to automate the exterior front doors also open the 2nd set of interior doors at the same time to give room and time for a wheelchair to enter through them.
3. Ashfaq Hussain (Kash) from the City of London Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee and leading expert on the AODA regulations discussed his involvement in the promotion of accessibility and the importance of increasing awareness and education. Kash shared that with respect to historical or public places, it was best to take a soft approach through recommendations. He will share the link to the new version of the AODA standards once they are approved. Additionally, he added that as a resource, the Federal government through the *Accessible Canada Act* has a Directorate which oversees federally regulated businesses such as the CRTC, banks, airlines, transit, etc. He encouraged members to build allies and look for partners in the community that will help promote the advancement of accessibility and create an all-inclusive mindset in others.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

R. Patrick, Transportation Technician, will attend a meeting in the fall with respect to signal timing.

NEXT MEETING

Unless something requiring the committee's attention arises, meetings will adjourn for the summer. The next meeting will be at the call of the Chair.

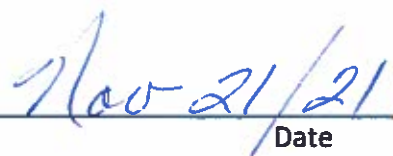
ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: K. Lizotte – L. McClure

THAT: The committee adjourned at 10:12a.m.

Carried.


Signed, Chair, Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee


Date