

Tecumseh Accessibility Advisory Committee

Minutes

Date: Thursday, February 27, 2025
Time: 1:00 pm
Location: Electronic Meeting

Present:

Member, Patrick Strong
Member, Ron Matysek
Member, Tracey Crow
Chair, Alicia Higgison
Member, Kristina Fernandez

Absent:

Member, Melissa Bloomfield

Also Present:

Council & Committee Assistant, Kaitlyn Baggio
Manager Legislative Services & Deputy Clerk, Jennifer Alexander
Engineering Project Manager, Alessia Mussio
Director Public Works & Engineering Services, Phil Bartnik

A. Roll Call

B. Call to Order

The Chairperson calls the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

C. Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are on land and surrounded by water, originally inhabited by Indigenous Peoples who have travelled this area since time immemorial. This territory is within the lands honoured by the Wampum Treaties; agreements between the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Leni Lenape and allied Nations to peacefully share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Specifically, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the Three Fires Confederacy Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi and Huron/Wendat Peoples. We are dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture while remaining committed to moving forward respectfully with all First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

D. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There is no pecuniary interest declared by a Member of the Committee.

E. Delegations

1. Phil Bartnik, Director Public Works and Engineering Services and Alessia Mussio, Engineering Project Manager

The Engineering Project Manager, Alessia Mussio, provided an update on the Lesperance and Little River Boulevard Trails project. She explained that the purpose of the meeting was to give the Committee a chance to provide feedback on the design of accessible parking spaces.

The members shared their concerns about the potential reduction in accessible parking spots. In response, the Engineering Project Manager reassured them that the number of accessible parking spots would remain the same. The members also asked about the town's responsibilities regarding winter maintenance.

The Director of Public Works and Engineering Services explained that the winter control procedures for the new trail are currently under review. He assured the Committee that the town is committed to maintaining the trail, while property owners will be responsible for their own properties. He also noted the challenges of limited staffing for winter control, citing the Ministry of Transportation's regulations on the maximum number of hours an employee can legally work in a vehicle.

a. PWES-2025-05 Lesperance Road and Little River Boulevard Trails - Project Update

Motion: TAAC - 01/25

Moved By Member, Patrick Strong
Seconded By Member, Tracey Crow

That Report PWES-2025-05 entitled "Lesperance Road and Little River Boulevard Multi-Use Trails – Project Update" be received.

Carried

F. Communications

There are no Communication items presented to the Committee.

G. Reports

There are no reports presented to the Committee.

H. Unfinished Business

Chair, Alicia Higginson welcomed new member Kristina Fernandez to the Committee.

I. New Business

1. National AccessAbility Week May 25 - 31, 2025

The Deputy Clerk and Manager of Legislative Services informed the Members about past events held for National AccessAbility Week, such as the flag-raising at Town Hall, a social media campaign, and Red Shirt Day. The Members suggested ideas, including an accessibility barriers exercise, setting up a table at the upcoming accessibility festival hosted by the County of Essex, and organizing a Special Olympics baseball game at the new baseball diamond. The Deputy Clerk proposed scheduling a meeting next month to finalize the events to be included for the week.

2. Accessible Customer Service Policy Review

The Deputy Clerk & Manager Legislative Services provided an overview of the Accessible Customer Service Policy and offered the Committee time to review the policy and provide feedback for the next meeting.

J. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at the call of the Chair.

K. Adjournment

Motion: TAAC - 02/25

Moved By Member, Ron Matysek
Seconded By Member, Tracey Crow

That there being no further business, the Friday, February 28, 2025 meeting of the Tecumseh Accessibility Advisory Committee **be adjourned** at 2:04 pm.

Carried

Alicia Higgison, Chairperson

Robert Auger, Clerk