

**Meeting Date, Time, and Location**

Tuesday, June 25, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room #1 at Town Hall

**Members**

Dennis Hernandez-Galeano, Chair  
 Bev Ferris, Vice-Chair  
 Gary Kooistra  
 Barbara McLeod (regrets)  
 Tammy Clark (regrets)  
 Lori Brant  
 Veronica Sparling  
 Steve Gucciardi, Transit Representative (regrets)  
 Councillor Ann-Marie Noyes (regrets)

**Staff Resources**

Keegan Gennings, Chief Building Official  
 Sean Hutton, Facilities Supervisor (regrets)  
 Bev Bradnam, Manager, Strategic Initiatives

Guests:

Jennifer Brickell, Person Centered Care of Niagara Inc. (to 5:55 p.m.)  
 Chris Millar, Neighbourhood Planner (to 5:55 p.m.)

1) **Call To Order**

The June 25, 2019 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m.

2) **Approval of Minutes**

**Recommendation No. 1:**

**Moved by:** Lori Brant  
**Seconded by:** Gary Kooistra

**THAT:** The April 30, 2019 Minutes of the Fort Erie Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be approved as printed.

**(CARRIED)**

3) **Person Centered Care of Niagara Inc.**

Jennifer Brickell, Client and Family Connections Coordinator and On-Call Supervisor, from Person Centered Care of Niagara, was introduced to the Committee members. Jennifer advised that she has been with the agency for two years and their home base is the Optimist Club building on Gilmore Road where they also run a day program. Jennifer noted that they also provide services from Crystal Beach to Grimsby and have a 12 passenger van and 7 seat vehicle to transport clients to and from.

3) **Person Centered Care of Niagara Inc.**

Jennifer advised that the vehicles are not accessible but the agency is hosting a baseball tournament fundraiser in August and proceeds will go towards the purchase of an accessible vehicle. They have been provided with some purchasing details from Community Living. Jennifer advised that the agency has only been a not-for-profit since February 2019 so obtaining funding grants without the proven experience as a not-for-profit has proven to be challenging. The agency has registered with the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

The agency operates Tuesday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and every other Saturday. Three group activities take place each month with two at their Optimist Club location and one external (i.e. Skyzone – sensory activity). A bowling league takes place every Monday and the third event changes based on the time of year. In August they will be visiting Canada's Wonderland. Fort Erie individuals that the agency supports may access the FAST service or have family bring them to the Club but it is difficult when activities take place out of town to provide transportation. Jennifer advised that they also offer overnight and respite care, recreational programs and life skills building. Presently they have 140 individuals that they are actively supporting and 30 staff.

Jennifer was asked what age group they help and she advised that there is no age limit and individuals can range from 0 to 100. They also support individuals in long term care, with a dual diagnosis or mental health needs.

Dennis questioned if there have been any concerns with the ramp into the Optimist building and Jennifer advised that they recently redid the ramp but did note the difficult getting into the building.

Jennifer described the baseball fundraiser which takes place on August 17<sup>th</sup> at Ott Road in Stevensville and they are hoping to have eight teams participate at \$500 per team with all proceeds going towards the accessible vehicle. Dennis suggested that they also provide activities for children during the tournament. Jennifer thanked the Town for waiving the fees to use the park.

4) **Active Transportation Master Plan**

John Zunic of WSP Consulting teleconferenced into the meeting and Chris Millar, Neighbourhood Planner, attended in order to assist with the presentation on the update on the Active Transportation Master Plan consultation and the work that WSP is undertaking. Mr. Zunic advised that the project objectives are:

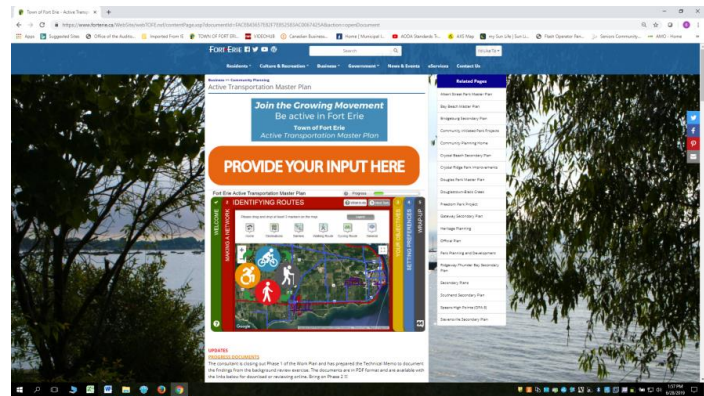
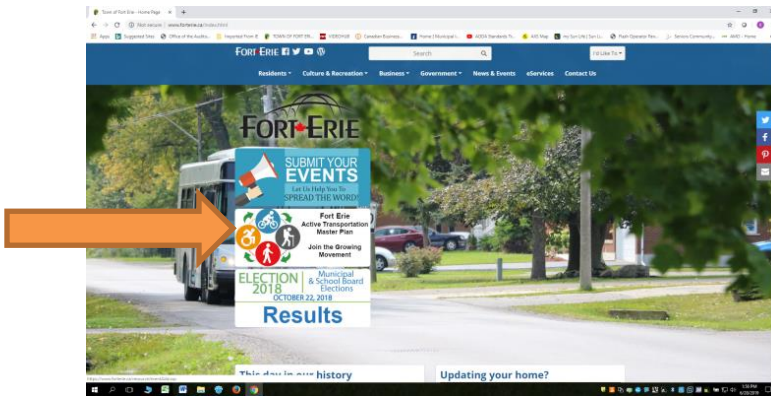
1. Develop a long-range plan;
2. Provide direction to decision makers;
3. Ensure policies are reflective of enhanced government policy;
4. Identify a network of proposed active transportation facilities;
5. Provide preliminary costing considerations;
6. Align the network to leverage future development; and
7. Provide support for increased community values.

4) **Active Transportation Master Plan, continued**

Mr. Zunic described Phase 1 – reviewing documentation and Phase 2 – existing active transportation identification and assessment. The consultants are presently in Phase 3 – drafting the Active Transportation Master Plan (ATMP) and proposed network. Phase 4 will be the implementation stage, including a phasing plan, priority actions and fiscal strategy.

Phase 3 will also include stakeholder and public meetings throughout the summer. Mr. Zunic advised that to date the consultations have revealed that there is a need for connectivity to Stevensville, additional amenities, improved way finding and signage, and that some sidewalks are in poor condition.

Mr. Zunic explained that WSP is still soliciting public feedback and walked the Committee through the on-line tool at <https://forterie.ca/> (link is on the home page as noted below) and how it worked and encouraged each member to access the tool in order to provide details on barriers, suggested networks or what they really like about the present attributes that the Town has (ie. Friendship Trail).



Mr. Zunic advised the Committee that the next steps include:

1. Completing and submitting Phase 2 Technical Memo;
2. Revising Phase 2 Technical Memo based on feedback from Town staff;
3. Determining the network priorities and phasing as part of network implementation;
4. Preparing the draft ATMP Report and implementation strategy; and
5. Presenting the ATMP to Town Council.

Chris Millar advised that the Technical Memo will identify priority networks and noted that the CP line through Stevensville is abandoned and would provide a great multi-use trail.

The consultant was asked if waterfront access and shoreline pathways were being considered. Chris advised that a few comments related to waterfront access points have been received as it relates to the connection to waterfront locations.

4) **Active Transportation Master Plan, continued**

Discussion took place regarding the Right of Passage legislation that was introduced but not enacted. It was noted that there is no infrastructure, like a boardwalk, along the shoreline.

Mr. Zunic and Mr. Millar were thanked for their presentation. Mr. Millar and Mrs. Brickell left the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

5) **Outstanding Matters**

1) Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee

Dennis advised that his application for the Regional AAC was not accepted and he has been trying to determine why he was the only member that was not reappointed. He has reached out to Regional Councillor Insinna but has not yet received a return phone call. Dennis advised that he attempted to speak to their Accessibility Coordinator but he advised that he was too busy and would call him tomorrow. Bev suggested that Dennis follow-up with Mayor Redekop as he is also a Regional Councillor and he may be able to advise how appointments are made to Regional Committees. Veronica was reappointed to the Regional AAC. Veronica advised that the next Regional AAC meeting has been scheduled for September 17<sup>th</sup> and the Committee will only be meeting 4 times per year. Discussion took place regarding accommodations for those that can't physically attend meetings. The Region has advised that there is no ability to call or video in to meetings. Dennis advised that the Provincial Advisory Committee he participates on with the Region's Accessibility Coordinator allows for video conferencing in order to accommodate those that cannot physically attend the meetings.

- New Intersection at GFESS – nothing new to report.

- Accessible Bus Demo – Veronica advised that an open meeting is taking place regarding the accessible transportation portion of the Transportation survey. The meeting is taking place on June 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Bev F. and Gary may attend on behalf of the Committee.

2) Parking Concerns

- Walmart Accessible Parking Space:

Bev advised that a follow-up email resulted in a call from Walmart's head office from an individual who manages the planning and civil engineering for all Walmart Stores. The Fort Erie store is one of the last sites to have investment in their parking lot and they are planning to do work this year. Discussion included the AAC's request for additional accessible spaces and the possible triggering of the site plan agreement and the Committee's suggestion to have courtesy spaces added as a possible solution.

5) **Outstanding Matters, continued**

2) Parking Concerns, continued

- Walmart Accessible Parking Space, continued:

Walmart will be seeking clarity from Planning staff if the maintenance alone (repaving and relining) will trigger any kind of legal requirement (which Jeremy Korevaar, the Town's Development Coordinator, has confirmed would not). If there isn't a legal requirement and it was at Walmart's discretion, staff were asked what that would look like from an application perspective, noting that they want to do something soon. Walmart and Planning staff will be reviewing the current by-law from a zoning perspective and also the present parking space counts vs. what current requirements would require. In speaking with Jeremy we need to determine how many spaces they were required to have and how many were created (if more i.e. 500 rather than 400, then we can discuss adding additional spaces without triggering anything). Walmart has also requested feedback from the AAC on if it is actual accessible spots, how many would we be looking for and if it is courtesy spots, again how many and what would we call them (ie. courtesy for seniors, courtesy for mobility, etc.).

Lori noted that the present accessible spaces do not provide extra space to disembark safely. Bev F. and Dennis advised that the end space does have hatchmarks but you could possibly be exiting right into traffic. Keegan advised that the Type A vs. Type B spaces should be determined. Lori noted that "van only" ones would be nice. Dennis noted that the accessible spaces in Lowes provide access aisles between spaces. Keegan noted that there may be a possibility to revamp by taking a block of spaces and placing access aisles between two spaces to be used by both sides.

The AAC agreed that they would prefer additional accessible spaces, if that was possible. Otherwise, courtesy signs should read Courtesy for those with Mobility Issues.

3) Fort Erie Active Transportation Committee (FEAT)

Dennis advised that FEAT will have a booth on Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup> at Ridgefest. Setup will take place at 8:00 a.m. and the Festival begins at 10:00 a.m. The Committee will be there until approximately 2:00 p.m.

FEAT will have a tent and table available that they will share with Bev for her Multi-Year Accessibility Plan consultation. Bev showed the Committee the banner that she has designed and distributed the questions that she will be asking. Dennis encouraged AAC members to come out and help. Dennis will be there later in the day and Veronica offered to help between 10-12 and Gary and Bev F. between 12-2. Members were reminded to bring water with them as it will be hot.

5) **Outstanding Matters, continued**

4) Letter to 660 Garrison Road re Life Labs

Gary confirmed that the parking lot has been repainted but there is no sloped ramp yet at Life Labs as discussed with the property manager. People are parking in front of the only curb cut, which was insufficient for Bev F. to attempt. Bev will send a follow-up email to the property manager. Remain on outstanding.

5) Community Theatre – Greater Fort Erie Secondary School

Remain on outstanding. Work is to be completed during the summer months.

6) Accessible Taxi Cabs

Councillor Noyes has brought this matter forward at Council. Remain on outstanding.

7) Stop Gap Ramp Project

Bev advised that she has not yet had an opportunity to follow-up on this matter. Remain on outstanding.

8) Albany Place Parking

No response has been received to date. A follow-up letter will be sent. Remain on outstanding.

9) 238 Bertie Street – Request for Funding

The funding request approved by Council for facility improvements also requires the construction of an accessible washroom in order to receive the funding. Remain on outstanding.

6) **Site Plans (if applicable)**

Keegan provided site plans for an automotive repair shop on Garrison Road. The plans show one accessible parking space and an accessible washroom. Keegan noted that they may require both an A and B parking space and he will have Planning check the requirements based on the total number of parking spaces required.

7) **Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2019-2023**

The Ridgefest public consultation was discussed under Item 5.3.

8) **Other Matters**

1) Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region (LDANR)

Bev advised that a contact us submission was received introducing the LDANR group. The group has asked if they could provide promotional material on their services or schedule a brief presentation. Bev has invited them to the September 24, 2019 AAC meeting and they have accepted the invitation. Add to next meeting agenda.

2) Federal Government's Survey

Bev advised that an email was received from Employment and Social Development Canada's (ESDC) Accessibility Secretariat advising that they have engaged Quorus Consulting Group to conduct a survey measuring Canadians' awareness and experiences with accessibility and disability issues. The Survey submissions are being received until July 5, 2019 and are open to all Canadian citizens at least 18 years of age and older who have had a disability in the past or are currently living with a disability. The email and survey link has been forwarded to AAC members.

9) **Date for Next Meeting**

The next AAC meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, September 24, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room #1.

10) **Adjournment**

**Recommendation No. 2:**

**Moved by: Bev Ferris**  
**Seconded by: Veronica Sparling**

**THAT: The June 25, 2019 meeting of the Fort Erie Accessibility Advisory Committee does now hereby adjourn at 7:05 p.m.**

Meeting minutes recorded and prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

Bev Bradnam, DPA  
Manager, Strategic Initiatives

Dennis Hernandez-Galeano  
Chair

