



**MINUTES**  
**West Grey Local Accessibility Advisory Committee**  
**April 28, 2021, 7:00pm**  
**Online (Zoom)**

**Present:** Cheryl Lindsay (co-chair), Todd Stoddard (co-chair), Pam Michels, Jennifer Lang, Councillor Geoffrey Shea (secretary)

**Regrets:** Andrew McLean

**Guest:** Kathie Nunno (Grey County Administrative and Accessibility Coordinator)

**Call to Order:** Cheryl called the meeting to order at 7:13pm.

Geoffrey reported that recent correspondence from Andrew indicated that he would be unable to commit to further meetings. We will seek input from West Grey about how to proceed.

**Approval of Agenda** Moved: Jen, Second: Todd, passed.

**Approval of Mar. 24, 2021 Minutes:** Moved: Todd, Second: Cheryl, passed.

**Business Arising from the Previous Meeting**

**AODA Standards:** Geoffrey reported that he did not find a consolidated list of the accessibility requirements proscribed by the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. Rather there are multiple, complex documents that interpret the act such as:

- AODA and Regulations - <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/05a11#BK38>
- Building Code - <http://www.buildingcode.online/517.html>
- City of Toronto Guidelines - [https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/8fcf-accessibility\\_design\\_guidelines.pdf](https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/8fcf-accessibility_design_guidelines.pdf)

**Survey of Businesses:** Pam and Todd created a draft survey that could assess local business's knowledge and accommodation of accessibility. Pam suggested it should be extended to include people with mobility issues beyond wheelchair users. Todd will make modifications to the survey.

**RECOMMENDATION: The committee expressed disappointment that the funding for the Durham Town Hall accessibility renovations was not successful and expressed hope that a way will be found to move the project forward.**

Moved: Todd, Second: Cheryl, passed

**Recruiting/Responsibilities:** Todd prepared a PowerPoint that explains the roles of the committee to the public. It was suggested this could be the basis of the committee's web presence on the municipality's site. Geoffrey related that he had talked to the Clerk, Genevieve Scharback, who had recommendations about how the committee could represent itself to the public. Co-Chairs Todd and Cheryl will reach out to the Clerk for clarity.

**Council Relations:** Pam asked how we should expect to hear back after we make a recommendation to council. Geoffrey confirmed that we would relay council decisions. Cheryl suggested that she and Todd would also try to monitor council decisions.

**StopGap Ramps:**

**RECOMMENDATION: That the letter drafted by Todd (attached) be approved for sending to the BIA.** Moved: Todd, Second: Pam, passed.

**Lydia Dyck / Elephant Thoughts Presentation:**

**RECOMMENDATION: That a letter of appreciation be sent to Elephant Thoughts for their meaningful work addressing accessibility in their programming in our community.**

Moved: Todd, Second: Jen, passed.

**New Business**

**Kathie Nunno** outlined the work of the Grey County Joint Accessibility Committee. She showed the documents on the Grey County website and said our committee was welcome to use these as templates, including their member recruitment page. She outlined that the committee:

- Reviews site plans of municipal and outdoor public space plans
- Conducts site visits to identify municipal accessibility issues if invited
- Supports training in Accessible Customer Service but struggles with how to inform users of these services that this training has been done. (E.g., grocery store staff are trained to support individuals who request access to a quiet space, but individuals do not know that this training has been provided.)

She would like to develop a Home Show that would allow builders, developers, planners, suppliers, and individuals requiring accessibility to share ideas, after Covid. She also reiterated that her job includes supporting lower tier accessibility committees, like ours.

**Correspondence - NA**

**Next Meeting Date:** Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 7:00pm

**Adjournment:** Moved: Cheryl, Second: Jen, passed.

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Co-Chair

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Secretary



April 2021

Attention: Durham BIA

Greetings to all members of the Durham BIA.

*On behalf of the West Grey Local Accessibility Advisory Committee, established in Sept of 2019, we would like to thank you for allowing us time to discuss our committee at your last monthly meeting. As discussed briefly, the West Grey Local Accessibility Advisory Committee are utilizing the mindset developed by the “Stop Gap” foundation, for the purposes of eliminating barriers in the local community. The “Stop Gap” Foundation aims to create a world where every person can access every space. A world free of barriers would help give everyone the opportunity to live a life full of independence, spontaneity, and ultimate fulfillment. Ultimately, they provide ramps for businesses to assist in accessing these places. (<https://stopgap.ca>)*

*The West Grey Local Accessibility Advisory Committee is asking the local Durham BIA to consider a plan where 8 local businesses would be targeted for ramps. The ramps could be permanent, or also built to be removed, and used as necessary. Our plan asks the BIA to assist identifying select businesses who would consider ramps, as well as funding this accessibility project. Details need to be worked out but an overview would be that the BIA would purchase the ramps from Stop Gap, identify the business interested, provide the ramps to those businesses, at a reduced cost to the business owner themselves (\$25?). The cost to the BIA would range between \$4000 to \$6000 for the 8 Ramps (\$250-\$550 each with additional cost of shipping outside Greater Toronto area). As the Durham BIA receives business owner dollars\$, the businesses would see this as their dollars being put to use directly back to themselves, the business owner. All numbers and figures are estimates and negotiable if desired.*

*Again, the whole project will require further meetings to coordinate, as well as finalization of exact costs. At this time, we are simply asking for your consideration in this project. Please feel free to ask questions and if interested, attend one of our monthly meetings to discuss further. You can correspond through email as well.*

*Thank you again for your consideration.*

*Cheryl Lindsay / Todd Stoddart  
Co-Chairs - West Grey Local Accessibility Advisory Committee.*

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