

**Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee of
Lincoln, West Lincoln, Pelham, Thorold, Niagara-on-the-Lake,
Grimsby and Port Colborne
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 13, 2023
Zoom and In-Person Meeting**

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

JAAC Present: Dave Antaya (NOTL), Lauren Bubnic (NOTL), Rebecca Hill (Lincoln), Joey Hewitt (Thorold), Rhys Evans (Pelham), Dan Whipple (Pelham), Lisa Peso (Grimsby), Laura Slade (Port Colborne) Jennifer Tiessen (Grimsby) Jennifer Korstanje (Grimsby), Sue Langdon (West Lincoln)

JAAC Regrets: Dianne Rintjema (Lincoln), Janice Desroches (Thorold)

Introductions were made again by all members.

1. **Call to order:** Dan called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** Rhys added Nova Scotia Field of Dreams to New Business.

Be it resolved that the agenda is approved as amended. Moved by Rhys Evans, seconded by Laura Slade. CARRIED.

3. **Approval of the Minutes of May 11, 2023:**

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

4. **Parking By-law:** Donna has sent new wording for the accessible parking by-law to all JAAC municipalities. The JAAC was copied on that email. She suggests we give the municipalities some time to work through their internal processes, but she will follow up in August.

5. **Lincoln Economic Development Newsletter:** The JAAC has an opportunity to post an article in the newsletter to reach out to local businesses. Items to include in the article are:

- Mandate of JAAC and highlighting our list of priorities
- Awareness of AODA
- How JAAC can help businesses become more accessible

Donna will draft an article and circulate it for JAAC input.

6. **Accessibility Award:** The committee feels changes to this project are needed. Suggestions include:

- Start with smaller pieces
- Start with a smaller percentage
- Acknowledge small efforts to increase accessibility; recognize what has been done
- Put the percentage “accessible” on the decal or use a star rating system
- Reach out to Chambers of Commerce
- Perhaps give the business a package of resources for moving forward with their accessibility efforts

Dan suggested Donna draft something from this feedback and come back to the committee.

7. **Upcoming Audits:** Donna intends to do the remaining audits in August 2023. She will send the JAAC a schedule with date, location and timeframe required so if any members wish to attend the audits, they can arrange to do so.

Please note the finished audit reports are not public documents and are owned by the Admin Group and not to be shared outside of the JAAC.

8. **Nova Scotia Field of Dreams** – Rhys wished for the group to be aware of this project, which is a fully accessible sports park. He will send the link to Donna so that it can be shared with the whole committee.

9. **Next Meeting – Thursday, September 14, 2023, from 6:30-8:30 pm.** Location to be determined. Format to be hybrid (in person/Zoom). Dave requested new JAAC business cards. Donna will do cards for the whole committee.

10. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.