



**TOWNSHIP OF ESSA
HEALTHY, ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY AND PARKS COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

THURSDAY OCTOBER 15, 2026 – 3:00 p.m. - ZOOM

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Recommendation: Be it resolved that the agenda as presented be approved.

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Recommendation: Be it resolved that the minutes of the Healthy, Accessible Community and Parks Committee from their meeting of July 16, 2026, be approved as circulated.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING / OUTSTANDING ITEMS

5.1 Workplan Update

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 2026-2030 HACP Committee

7. CORRESPONDENCE / INFORMATION ITEMS

8. OTHER BUSINESS/ ROUND TABLE

8.1 Essa Public Library Update

8.2 Parks and Recreation Update

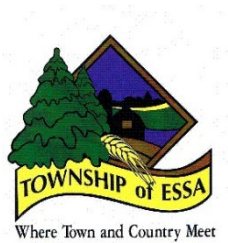
8.3 SMDHU Update

9. ESTABLISH DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

9.1 Tentative – Next Meeting January 2027.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Recommendation: Be it resolved that this meeting of the Healthy, Accessible Community and Parks Committee of the Township of Essa adjourn at ____p.m.



**TOWNSHIP OF ESSA
HEALTHY, ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY AND PARKS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
THURSDAY JULY 16, 2026
Meeting Conducted via Zoom**

In Attendance:

**Patricia Foster, Chair
Clarisse Esteban, Member
Stephanie McCann
Deputy Mayor Michael Smith
Sarah Orr-Shaw, SMDHU Representative**

Staff:

**Sarah Corbett, Deputy Clerk, Recording Secretary
Glenda Newbatt, Essa Public Library (Regrets)
Abbey McClinton, Parks and Recreation-Booking**

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Chair, opened the meeting at 3:02 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by: S. McCann Seconded by: M. Smith

Be it resolved that the agenda for the Healthy, Accessible Community and Parks Committee be approved as presented. Motion Carried.

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved by: M. Smith Seconded by: C. Esteban

Be it resolved that the minutes of the Healthy, Accessible Community and Parks Committee dated April 16, 2026, be received. Motion Carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING / OUTSTANDING ITEMS

- 5.1** Workplan Update – S. Corbett to provided the Committee with an updated Work Plan at the final HACP Meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- 6.1 S. Corbett provided the HACPC Committee with the 2026 Municipal Election Plan.

Moved by: S. McCann Seconded by: C. Estebar

Be it resolved that the Healthy Accessible Parks and Community Committee endorsed the 2026 Essa Municipal Election Accessibility Plan. Motion Carried.

7. CORRESPONDENCE / INFORMATION ITEMS

None.

8. OTHER BUSINESS/ ROUND TABLE

- 8.1 Essa Public Library
Glenda Newbatt, Essa Public Library provided an update regarding chair yoga, and the accessible gardens programs. She commented that the Library is working on the accessible gardens at both branches are in full swing and are welcoming anyone to weed, water, and harvest. We have one accessible garden in Angus and two in Thornton so everyone can participate. She advised that Family Fun Night is on Thursday, August 20th, from 5-7:30.
- 8.2 Parks and Recreation
Abby McClinton, Parks and Recreation provided an update on the skate park in Thornton, pickleball/basketball at Angus Recreation, pump track in Baxter, Maple Lane Park. She commented that currently there are not many programs running as summer camps are in full swing.
- 8.3 Simcoe Muskoka District Heath Unit
Sarah Orr, SMDHU provided an update to their strategic plan. She further advised that the Chronic Diseases Prevention division.

9. ESTABLISH DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

- 9.1 The next committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday October 15, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: M. Smith Seconded by: S. McCann

Be it resolved that this meeting of the Healthy, Accessible Community and Parks Committee of the Township of Essa adjourn at 3:57 p.m. Motion Carried.

Patricia Foster, Chair

Sarah Corbett, Deputy Clerk

Essa Township
Healthy, Accessible Communities and Parks Committee
Work Plan 2022-2026
Internal Document

Activity	Task	Timeline Start - End	Lead (L) & Others (O) Involved	Budget	Status O-Completed Δ-In progress X- Hold €-Ongoing	Additional Information
MANDATE : The Healthy, Accessible Community and Parks Committee is dedicated to advise and assist the Township in promoting and facilitating a barrier-free healthy community while improving the quality of life for all persons and promoting equal opportunity for citizens of all abilities.						
1.Promote healthy living and access to eating local food	Create a Healthy, Accessible Communities and Parks brochure outlining the committee’s goal, objective, and community activities available	Q3 2023 – Q1 2024	(L)-Essa Township	N/A	O	2024.07.18 printed and distributed, found at Arenas and Township Building.
	Accessibility of community gardens – goal to have one raised bed that is wheelchair accessible at each Essa library.	Q2 – Q3 2024	(L)-Essa Township	Unkno wn	O	2024.05.25 confirmed there is a garden that is raised at Thorton Library and is wheelchair accessible, there is a raised garden at the Food Bank (Angus Library) also accessible.
	Expansion and more accessibility of community gardens at each Essa library		(L)-Essa Township	N/A	X	2024.07.18 found that both Libraries were struggling with finding volunteers for the community gardens, the library staff were doing most of the planting, weeding, watering and maintaining.

Activity	Task	Timeline Start - End	Lead (L) & Others (O) Involved	Budget	Status O-Completed Δ-In progress X- Hold €-Ongoing	Additional Information
2. Promote Healthy Living and active lifestyles for all residents and assist in planning future trails, sidewalks, canoeing and kayaking launches, as well as parks, and public spaces	Promote active school travel through communications assets (e.g. social media)	Ongoing	(L)-Essa Township	N/A	€	2024.02.07 – Promotion of Winter Walk Day completed through social media.
	Promotion of school travel.	Ongoing	(L)-Essa Township	N/A	€	Ongoing, social media posts
	Continue to promote winter walk day	Ongoing	(L)-Essa Township	N/A	€	2024.02.? - ask community to also participate?
	Promote new parks and features of existing parks (healthy and barrier-free)	Ongoing	(L)-Essa Township	N/A	€	2024.07.18 feedback on new park development 2024.09.25 open house Plans review
	Attend Transportation and Trails Master Plan Open Houses in order to bring back information to the committee for discussion and potential input on behalf of the HACP Committee	Q2-Q3 2024	(L)-Essa Township	N/A	O	Completed October 2024
3. Promote safe roads, reduction in personal vehicle use and energy conservation	Promote active transportation through social media posts		(L)-Essa Township	N/A	€	Essa Township Website added links
	Work with Simcoe County to feedback community concerns		(L)-Essa Township	N/A	€	Request for letter to Simcoe County to feedback concerns
	Review and provide input on the Township of Essa Official Plan on behalf of the committee		Others (O)	N/A	€	2024.09.25 open house Plans review attended

Activity	Task	Timeline Start - End	Lead (L) & Others (O) Involved	Budget	Status O-Completed Δ-In progress X- Hold €-Ongoing	Additional Information
	Promotion of Charged for Change Stations through communication assets.	Q2 2024-2026	(L)-Essa Township	N/A	O	Essa Township Website added information
4. Advocate on behalf of persons with disabilities through the promotion of public awareness and understanding the needs of disabled persons	Attend flag raising at Essa Township Building. National Accessibility week	Q3 2024	(L)Essa Township	N/A	€	Each year in late May, early June
Advocate on behalf of persons with disabilities through change	Work with Essa Parks and Rec to create an safe walkway link from new park on Kevin Crescent and Olive Lee Park in Thornton	Q3 2024	Others (O)	N/A	O	2024.07.18 Parks and Rec smoothed out area added crushed limestone which they already had for the park, just ensured this area was safe for all.
5. Monitor the status of municipality owned and/or operated buildings, facilities and public areas to ensure that they meet the needs of disabled people	Gathering public feedback Working with Staff on areas of concerns	Ongoing	Essa Township	N/A	€	

Activity	Task	Timeline Start - End	Lead (L) & Others (O) Involved	Budget	Status O-Completed Δ-In progress X- Hold €-Ongoing	Additional Information
6. Identify any potential funding opportunities to assist Essa in becoming healthy and barrier free	Provide information on funding opportunity from Tree Canada.	Q4 2023	SMDHU	N/A	O	2023.10.19. Funding opportunity shared with municipal staff
7. Respond to relevant accessibility issues as raised by individuals or community groups	Encourage residents of the Township of Essa through social media messages and other communication assets to reach out to the committee to raise accessibility issues.				€	Pamphlet lists contact information Essa website provides an area for feedback
8. Provide a forum for discussion and coordination of recreational and healthy community initiatives and programs with other community groups and agencies	Bring awareness to the community through communications assets of pollinators and gardens in the Spring.	Q2 2024	(L)-Essa Public Library (O)-Committee	N/A	Δ	2024.04.25 - Can use messaging already created by <i>Conseil Canadien du COMPOST Council of Canada</i>
	Essa Family Fun Night		(L)-Essa Township		€	Staff (Clerks Office, Library, Parks and Rec) attend, bring pamphlets and provide information to attendees.

Activity	Task	Timeline Start - End	Lead (L) & Others (O) Involved	Budget	Status O-Completed Δ-In progress X- Hold €-Ongoing	Additional Information
9. Work with Township staff in the maintenance of the Essa Accessibility Plan in accordance with the Ontarians with Disabilities Act	Provide verbal feedback of having accessible seating in new parks.	??	(L)-Essa Township	N/A	€	2024.01.18 – awaiting assessment of having a wheelchair accessible picnic table at new parks. Staff and committee to continue to advocate for accessible seating at our parks and public spaces.
	Assess trail accessibility and mark which trails are accessible for all ages and abilities	2025	(L)-Essa Township		Δ	This is a great idea that should roll forward to the 2026-2030 term of this committee.
10. Support the development and implementation of program, policies and by-laws which promote and create a barrier-free healthy community	Develop a policy for winter maintenance of sidewalks, paths and trails	2025	(L)-Essa Township		X	This item is developed under the Ontario's Minimum Maintenance Standards (O.Reg 239/02)
11. Provide advice to Staff and Council on policy matters and relating to the provision of					€	

Activity	Task	Timeline Start - End	Lead (L) & Others (O) Involved	Budget	Status O-Completed Δ-In progress X- Hold €-Ongoing	Additional Information
recreational, cultural and related services, events for residents and visitors.						
12. Make recommendation to Council on strategies and policies to ensure that existing barriers are eliminated, and that no new barriers will be created especially at parks and in public spaces	Bring forward the recommendation that Council write a letter of recommendation to Simcoe County Council on eliminating accessibility barriers at Simcoe Links bus stops and recommending the installation of audible crosswalks in Angus.	Q2 2024	(L)- Committee	0	O	CAO and Staff are continuing to work with the County of Simcoe
13. Make recommendations to council on amenities to be contained in parks, park and facility planning and policies for park and facility use.	Make Accessibility Check List for new Parks. Do a Parks, trails and Township facility Audit for accessibility	2026-2030			Δ	Ongoing This is a great initiative and should be brought forward to the 2026-2030 term of this Committee