

Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes
June 1, 2021 - 7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

Present: Jeffrey Beaton, Chair
Liam Lacy
Denise Laframboise
Dave MacKinnon, Vice-Chair
Paul Scott
Ayse Yuksel

Also Present: John Romano, Commissioner, Community Services
Michele Cotton, Staff Liaison, Accessibility Coordinator
Heather Oerlemans, Council and Committee Coordinator
(Recording Secretary)

Regrets: Naji Hassan

Call to Order

1. Disclosures of Interest

1.1 There were no disclosures of interest.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes - May 4, 2021

Recommendation:

Moved By Liam Lacy

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes of May 4, 2021 be approved.

Carried

3. Presentations

3.1 Kathryn Kram, Supervisor, Zoning and Regulation and Principal Planner, Town of Whitby
Re: Comprehensive Zoning By-law Review Update

Kathryn Kram provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Comprehensive Zoning By-law Review. Highlights of the presentation included:

- a definition of zoning and the purpose behind creating a new Zoning By-law;
- the web-based and user-friendly structure of the new Zoning By-law;
- plans to modernize the format of legislation and policy pertaining to the new Zoning By-law;
- revising and simplifying the existing Zoning By-laws; and,
- beginning Phase Two consultation and recommended directions in early 2022.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- whether residential zoning could include elevation standards to improve accessibility;
- whether vegetable gardens would be considered in the new Zoning By-law;
- how parks and requirements for developers to set aside parkland would be addressed;
- whether lower density zoning allowed for less parkland and higher density zoning allowed for greater parkland; and,
- ways in which the Accessibility Advisory Committee could assist with the Comprehensive Zoning By-law Review.

Jeffrey Beaton suggested that a feedback process be established to ensure developers are meeting accessibility standards in their designs.

3.2 Lori Tesolin, Supervisor, Policy and Heritage and Principal Planner,
Town of Whitby
Re: Downtown Whitby Secondary Plan Update

Lori Tesolin provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Downtown Whitby Secondary Plan update. Highlights of the presentation included:

- revisiting and updating the existing vision of the Secondary Plan;
- the draft vision and principles for downtown Whitby such as supporting sustainability, accessibility and innovation, and enhancing the vitality and viability of downtown Whitby;
- the two Concept Options for downtown Whitby; and,
- the Virtual Community Open House on the Connect Whitby website from June 3 - 23, 2021.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- how the heritage mixed use option at the Four Corners would impact that area;
- whether the vision statement could be updated to include 'inclusive'; and,
- highlighting accessibility within the draft principles.

4. Delegations

4.1 There were no delegations.

5. General Business and Reports

5.1 Accessibility Improvement Grant Program Update

Michele Cotton advised that Council approved the Accessibility Improvement Grant Program on May 17, 2021. Ms. Cotton further advised that the program would be launched at the end of the week.

5.2 Accessibility Awareness Program Update

Paul Scott advised that the Accessibility Awareness Program would be launched in June 2021. Mr. Scott advised that the launch would begin with global accessibility awareness, followed by 'did you know', and concluding with the Community Survey.

Michele Cotton stated that she would follow up with updates from Corporate Communications.

5.3 Accessible Signage and Wayfinding Study Update

Michele Cotton stated that the consultant for the Accessible Signage and Wayfinding Study was preparing a presentation for the Senior Leadership Team regarding the proposed project and designs. Ms. Cotton further stated that stakeholder meetings would be scheduled after the presentation to the Senior Leadership Team. She advised that a report was expected to go to Council in September, 2021.

John Romano advised that the Town's Tourism Committee had discussed signage and wayfinding throughout the Town, and that this project would have positive impacts for the Town.

5.4 Regional Update

Michele Cotton requested suggestions from the Committee regarding nominees for the Regional Accessibility Awards.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Stephanie Humphrey's building in the centre of Brooklin, 24 Princess Street; and,
- engaging the public for nominations through social media.

Michele Cotton advised that the Regional Accessibility Committee was interested in hosting a Joint Forum with the municipal Accessibility Advisory Committees throughout Durham. Ms. Cotton requested feedback regarding topics for the Joint Forum.

Discussion ensued regarding topics for the Joint Forum including:

- public transportation;
- active transportation and moving between municipalities in Durham Region;
- employment and workplace culture related to disabilities; and,
- discussing each Accessibility Advisory Committee's workplan.

5.5 Subcommittee Updates

- Site Plans and Built Environment Subcommittee
- Communications and Customer Service Subcommittee

Site Plans and Built Environment Subcommittee

Denise Laframboise advised that the Subcommittee reviewed four site plans. Ms. Laframboise provided an overview of concerns regarding:

- curb cut standards and a need for additional accessible parking spaces at the two nine-storey senior's buildings at 1180 Dundas Street West;
- the distance of the accessible parking in relation to the building and curbs not to Town standards at 5550 Baldwin Street;
- the replacement of playground pathway risers with a ramp at the Trafalgar Castle development;
- lack of connections to sidewalks and curbs not to Town standards at 665 Taunton Road East; and,
- consistent accessibility issues with site plans, such as inaccessible curb cuts and parking.

Communications and Customer Service Subcommittee

Paul Scott provided an update regarding the Communications and Customer Service Subcommittee which included;

- applications for the Accessibility Improvement Grant would be reviewed by the Subcommittee for input;
- meeting with Corporate Communications to discuss the roll out of the Accessibility Awareness Program; and,

- determining methods for improving data on the Community Survey.

Liam Lacy stated that the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee's Community Survey results indicated that there was a lack of representation and barriers for the deaf community in Whitby.

6. Correspondence

- 6.1** There was no correspondence.

7. Council Update

- 7.1** There was no Council update.

8. Other Business

8.1 Service Animals

Michele Cotton stated that she received an email from the Region of Durham outlining an incident that occurred in the Town in which a customer was refused service because they had a service animal. Ms. Cotton further stated that the situation between the customer and store owner became escalated. She advised that she was working with a representative from the Region of Durham to determine who was responsible for handling the situation, administering enforcement tools, and distributing educational information such as signage. Ms. Cotton further advised that the Region of Durham and the Regional Public Health Unit were looking into the matter and posting signs at stores.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- what consequences would be faced by the store owner if the customer contacted the police versus contacting the media; and,
- whether information regarding service animals could be added to the 'did you know' campaign.

8.2 Canadian Accessibility Standards Development Organization

Dave MacKinnon provided an update regarding the Canadian Accessibility Standards Development Organization meeting. Mr. MacKinnon advised that the group develops national standards in cooperation with the provinces and reviews topics such as communications, transportation, and radio and television.

9. Next Meeting

- 9.1** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.
To be determined

10. Adjournment

10.1 Motion to Adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By Dave MacKinnon

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Note: These minutes were approved by the Accessibility Advisory Committee on September 7, 2021.