

Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes
May 5, 2020 - 2:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

Present: Jeffrey Beaton, Vice-Chair
Naji Hassan
Liam Lacy
James Lawrie, Chair
Dave MacKinnon
Paul Scott
Ayse Yuksel

Also Present: Councillor Yamada, Mayor's Designate
John Romano, Commissioner of Community Services
Michele Cotton, Staff Liaison, Accessibility Coordinator
Heather Oerlemans, Council and Committee Coordinator
(Recording Secretary)

Regrets: Denise Laframboise

Call to Order

Heather Oerlemans, Council and Committee Coordinator, advised that due to the ongoing COVID-19 State of Emergency, the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting is being held electronically. She provided Members of the Committee with an overview of meeting etiquette and procedures with respect to conducting the meeting electronically.

1. Disclosures of Interest

1.1 There were no disclosures of interest.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes - March 3, 2020

Recommendation:

Moved By Jeffrey Beaton

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes of March 3, 2020 be approved.

Carried

3. Presentations

3.1 There were no presentations.

4. Delegations

4.1 There were no delegations.

5. General Business and Reports

5.1 Accessibility Advisory Committee 2020 Work Plan

James Lawrie advised that the Committee would review the Accessibility Advisory Committee 2020 Work Plan to determine which items have been completed and what to focus on for the remainder of the year.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- site plans and drawings review and developing an audit tool for playgrounds;
- developing an inclusiveness and accessibility checklist for Town Staff when reviewing drawings and site plans;
- providing accessibility awareness training for Town Staff;
- generating public awareness of the Accessibility Advisory Committee through social media and other means;
- event participation for the remainder of 2020;
- continuing to receive presentations from various Town of Whitby departments;
- creating and distributing an Accessibility Advisory Committee community survey;
- approval and roll-out of the Transportation Network Companies Fund terms of reference;
- following up on Staff implementation of the accessibility checklist for report writers; and,
- including an investigation of accessibility gaps and improvements identified from the COVID-19 stay-at-home orders into the 2020 Work Plan.

Michele Cotton advised that she would update the draft Accessibility Advisory Committee 2020 Work Plan to submit to an upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting.

5.2 Accessibility Gaps and Improvements Identified During Stay-at-Home Orders

Michele Cotton requested that Members collect information regarding accessibility gaps pertaining to services within the community to discuss at the next meeting.

Discussion ensued with respect to:

- providing a second community survey that focused on accessibility gaps resulting from COVID-19 safety measures;
- using social media to distribute the survey; and,
- communicating to the public which essential services, such as wheel chair repair, were continuing to operate.

5.3 Accessible Signage and Wayfinding Study Update

Michele Cotton advised that the Town was in the process of finalizing the company that would implement the Accessible Signage and Wayfinding Study and that this project was set to commence in 2020.

5.4 Site Plan Update

Michele Cotton advised that she was receiving second and third Site Plan submissions. Ms. Cotton further advised that a proposed six-storey apartment building at Thickson Road and Carnwith Drive had been revised to a 64 block multi-level townhouse complex. She stated that there were concerns regarding impacts to the supply of seniors housing.

A brief question answer period ensued regarding:

- what the Town's perspective was regarding the availability of seniors housing; and,
- whether the pandemic would influence changes to the building code with respect to long-term care and seniors homes.

6. Correspondence

6.1 There was no correspondence.

7. Council Update

7.1 Councillor Yamada provided updates regarding the April 27 Committee of the Whole meeting which included:

- a request to lift the holding provision on a proposed 18-storey apartment complex at Garden Street and Taunton Road;

- improvements to the recreation assistance fee program for low-income residents;
- the annual insured claims report; and,
- the Councillors in the Classroom program for grade 5 and grade 10 classes commencing in the fall.

8. Other Business

8.1 Status of Subcommittee Meetings

Liam Lacy requested an update regarding subcommittee meetings and whether they would be continuing for the remainder of the year.

Michele Cotton advised that she would look into setting up subcommittee meetings once the Accessibility Advisory Committee 2020 Work Plan was finalized.

9. Next Meeting

9.1 Tuesday, June 2, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.
Committee Room One, Whitby Town Hall
575 Rossland Road East

Heather Oerlemans advised that the Committee would be notified regarding the continuance of COVID-19 safety measures and how those measures would impact future Accessibility Advisory Committee Meetings. Ms. Oerlemans further advised that the date and time of upcoming meetings would remain unchanged.

10. Adjournment

10.1 Motion to Adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By Jeffrey Beaton

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Note: These minutes were approved by the Accessibility Advisory Committee on June 2, 2020.