

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

Present: Jeffrey Beaton, Chair
Naji Hassan
Liam Lacy
Paul Scott
Ayse Yuksel

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

Regrets: Denise Laframboise
Dave MacKinnon, Vice-Chair

Call to Order

1. Disclosures of Interest

1.1 There were no disclosures of interest.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes - June 1, 2021

Recommendation:

Moved By Ayse Yuksel

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes of June 1, 2021 be approved.

Carried

3. Presentations

3.1 Michele Cotton, Accessibility Coordinator, Town of Whitby

Re: Accessible Signage and Wayfinding Study

Michele Cotton provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Accessible Signage and Wayfinding Study. Highlights of the presentation included:

- defining wayfinding as the practice of helping people find their way through internal and external public spaces;
- avoiding over-signing and creating consistent and recognizable signage; and,
- ensuring appropriate height and placement of signage for all users.

4. Delegations

4.1 There were no delegations.

5. General Business and Reports

5.1 Accessible Signage and Wayfinding Study Committee Review and Comments

Michele Cotton requested feedback from the Committee regarding the Accessible Signage and Wayfinding Study. Ms. Cotton advised that Members could provide additional feedback through the Town's website at www.connectwhitby.ca/signageandwayfinding.

5.2 Accessibility Improvement Grant Fund

Michele Cotton advised that the Accessibility Improvement Grant Fund was scheduled to be launched on September 15, 2021. Ms. Cotton advised that a media campaign would be released to publicize the Accessibility Improvement Grant Fund.

5.3 Review of Statement of Commitment

Michele Cotton provided a review of the Statement of Commitment which included the Town's commitment to providing an accessible environment in which residents, visitors and employees have equitable access to municipal programs, services and facilities in a way that respects the dignity and independence of each individual. Ms. Cotton stated that the Statement of Commitment reflected the values of the Town regarding creating an accessible environment. She requested that the Committee provide feedback regarding whether the Statement of Commitment should be updated. She stated that Members could

provide their feedback at the October Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting.

A brief question and answer period ensued regarding whether Council approval was required to update the Statement of Commitment.

A brief discussion ensued regarding reviewing Statements of Commitment established by other municipalities.

Michele Cotton advised that she would compile comments received from Members of the Committee and present them at the October Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting.

5.4 Regional Update

Michele Cotton provided a Regional update regarding:

- the Joint Forum which would be held as a virtual meeting in November; and,
- the Accessibility Award nominations were due this week.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- the types of businesses that could be nominated; and,
- whether public feedback was received regarding nominations.

Ms. Cotton requested that the Committee forward their nomination to her by Thursday, September 9, 2021.

5.5 Annual Joint Meeting with the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee

Michele Cotton requested feedback from the Committee regarding the Annual Joint Meeting with the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee. Ms. Cotton advised that the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee would be present at the November Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting. She further advised that a consultant would be providing a presentation on the Town of Whitby's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism (IDEA) Project.

5.6 Summer Review

Michele Cotton provided a review of summer projects which included:

- the Whitby Autonomous Vehicle Electric Shuttle Project; and,
- the Electric Charging Stations in Whitby and a review of their design.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- how Port Whitby was selected as the pilot route for the Whitby Autonomous Vehicle Electric Shuttle Project; and,
- the expected ridership for the Whitby Autonomous Vehicle Electric Shuttle Project.

5.7 Subcommittee Updates

Jeffrey Beaton provided an update regarding site plans reviewed by the Site Plans and Built Environment Subcommittee which included:

- the Accessible Signage and Wayfinding Study;
- the Electric Charging Stations; and,
- reviewing the Electric Charging Station locations for accessibility.

Paul Scott provided an update regarding the Communications and Customer Service Subcommittee and advised that the Subcommittee meetings would resume later this month.

6. Correspondence

6.1 Support for Whitby Climate Change Plan

Jeffrey Beaton advised that a request was received to appoint a representative from the Accessibility Advisory Committee to provide feedback on the Whitby Climate Change Plan.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the role of the representative;
- whether the representative required specific qualifications; and,
- contacting Jane Welsh at the City of Toronto to provide input.

6.2 Light It Up! For NDEAM (National Disability Employment Awareness Month)

Jeffrey Beaton advised that a letter from the Mayor of Sarnia was received regarding a Mayor's Challenge to support the *Light It Up! For NDEAM (National Disability Employment Awareness Month)* event.

John Romano stated that the letter was initially received by staff to bring to Council to declare a proclamation in support of the initiative and participate in the *Light It Up! For NDEAM (National Disability Employment Awareness Month)* event on October 21, 2021.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- whether the Town could receive criticism regarding disability employment awareness; and,
- using this event to increase awareness.

Jeffrey Beaton suggested including local landmarks such as the Four Corners in this event.

Recommendation:

Moved By Liam Lacy

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that Council proclaim October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) and that on Thursday, October 21, 2021, the Town of Whitby show support by participating in the *Light It Up! For NDEAM* event by lighting up Town Hall.

Carried

7. Council Update

- 7.1** Councillor Yamada advised that Council and Committee meetings would be resuming on September 20, 2021.

8. Other Business

8.1 Accessible Pedestrian Routes to Schools

Paul Scott requested an update regarding pedestrian pathways connecting subdivisions to schools. Mr. Scott stated that the pathway linking a subdivision to a public school in the Whitby Shores Greenway and Seaboard Gate area was removed by the Durham District School Board.

John Romano advised that there was a concern from the Durham District School Board that the court in the subdivision would become a drop off zone creating traffic congestion and safety issues within the subdivision.

9. Next Meeting

- 9.1** Tuesday, October 5, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

10. Adjournment

- 10.1** Motion to Adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By Paul Scott

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Note: These minutes were approved by the Accessibility Advisory Committee on October 5, 2021.