

Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes
June 2, 2020 - 7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

Present: Jeffrey Beaton, Vice-Chair
Naji Hassan
Liam Lacy
Denise Laframboise
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: None noted

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.

It was the consensus of the Committee to hear Item 3.1, Tara Painchaud, Senior Manager, Transportation Services, Town of Whitby at this time.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes - May 5, 2020

Recommendation:

Moved By Jeffrey Beaton

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes of May 5, 2020 be approved.

Carried

3. Presentations

3.1 Tara Painchaud, Senior Manager, Transportation Services, Town of Whitby
Re: Parking Master Plan

Tara Painchaud provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the final draft of the Parking Master Plan. She advised that due to COVID-19, the plan was delayed and that the final draft would be presented to the Committee of the Whole in June and open to public comments throughout the summer. Highlights of the presentation included:

- a summary of comments received during Phase 1 and Phase 2 of public and stakeholder consultations such as improving wayfinding, and providing more cycling facilities;
- gaps and improvements highlighted by COVID-19 including the need for 15 minute curbside pick-up parking, temporary one-way streets, and pop-up patios for additional seating;
- the results of the parking capacity study in the downtowns;
- key short term, medium term, and long term recommendations such as expanding Municipal Lots, a pilot program for residential on-street permit parking, improving wayfinding signage, and implementing paid parking in Brooklin.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- what the process was for rolling out the pilot program for on-street parking permits;
- what amenities would be available at the downtown parking lots;
- whether dedicated street parking on one side of the street only was considered; and,
- whether waterfront trail parking was considered.

It was the consensus of the committee to hear Item 2.1, Minutes - May 5, 2020 at this time.

4. Delegations

4.1 There were no delegations.

5. General Business and Reports

5.1 Accessibility Advisory Committee 2020 Work Plan

James Lawrie stated that the Committee had identified items from the 2020 Work Plan to complete this year which included:

- the Transportation Network Companies Fund;
- community and Town of Whitby staff awareness campaigns; and,
- a community survey.

Mr. Lawrie advised that once the Transportation Network Companies Fund received final approval from Council, the programs to promote and distribute awards would begin. He further advised that any residual monies from 2020 would be rolled over and awarded in 2021.

James Lawrie advised that community surveys and awareness campaigns would be distributed through social media campaigns, by aligning with other Advisory Committees, and through community events in the fall such as Open Streets.

Mr. Lawrie further advised that Town of Whitby staff surveys and awareness training could be offered through the Learning Management System while many staff are working from home.

It was the consensus of the Committee to hear Item 5.4, Subcommittee Updates at this time.

5.2 Regional Update

Michele Cotton advised that the Accessibility Advisory Committee Joint Forum for 2020 was cancelled. Ms. Cotton further advised that discussions were underway to coordinate the issuance of Accessibility Awards with the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3, 2020. She requested that Members email their nominations to her and discuss the matter at the September 1, 2020 meeting.

Michele Cotton provided an update regarding National Accessibility Awareness Week and advised that virtual events and social media campaigns were being highlighted throughout the week.

5.3 Accessibility Gaps and Improvements Identified During Stay-at-Home Orders: Pandemic Gap Identification

Michele Cotton requested feedback from the Committee regarding accessibility gaps and improvements identified during stay-at-home orders.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- solutions to mitigate social distancing concerns on trails such as creating one-way paths;
- supporting mental health awareness;
- communicating social distancing etiquette on trails;
- establishing designated time periods for seniors and those with compromised immune systems on local trails;
- monitoring social distancing in public spaces such as parks and beaches; and,
- increasing the accessibility of the Town's beach by utilizing the Town's mobi-mats.

5.4 Subcommittee Updates

James Lawrie advised that the Customer Service and Communications Subcommittee was focusing on baseline data for the community survey, and community and Town of Whitby staff awareness/training campaigns.

Jeffrey Beaton advised that the Site Plans and Built Environment Subcommittee had not met at this time but would be meeting in a few weeks.

It was the consensus of the Committee to hear Item 5.2, Regional Update at this time.

6. Correspondence

6.1 For Information Only

Re: Social Distancing Concerns Along the Whitby Waterfront Trail

Michele Cotton advised that the Committee had received correspondence regarding Social Distancing Concerns Along the Whitby Waterfront Trail for information.

7. Council Update

7.1 Councillor Yamada provided updates regarding:

- financial implications and impacts from COVID-19 as a result of the cancellation of Town programs and facility bookings; and,

- the recognition of the Town of Whitby as a Tree City and the implementation of the Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) program.

Jeffrey Beaton suggested that Council consider setting up an innovation fund to be used for resident's recommendations for local improvement projects.

8. Other Business

8.1 There was no other business.

9. Next Meeting

9.1 Tuesday, September 1, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.
Committee Room One, Whitby Town Hall
575 Rossland Road East

10. Adjournment

10.1 Motion to Adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By Naji Hassan

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

These minutes were approved by the Accessibility Advisory Committee on September 1, 2020.