

**ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Ryan Billing, Chair  
Ms. Janet Jones, Vice Chair  
Ms. Shannon Cody  
Mr. Doug Hone  
Councillor Dave LeSueur  
Mr. Mel Watson

**REGRETS:**

Ms. Mary Ann Greenwood  
Mr. Ryan Annable

**STAFF:**

Ms. Lynn Murray, Deputy City Clerk (Recording Secretary)

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**DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Nil.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Moved by: Janet  
Seconded by: Dave

THAT the Agenda for the June 25, 2013 meeting of Brockville Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved as amended.

CARRIED

**CHAIR'S REMARKS**

Nil.

### **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

Moved by: Janet  
Seconded by: Shannon

THAT the minutes of the Brockville Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting dated May 28, 2013 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

#### 1. City Taxis

Ryan had a meeting with Andy Kovacs of Executive Taxi to discuss the need for an accessible taxi in Brockville. Andy indicated that the last accessible vehicle was taken off the road because of high insurance costs. He indicated that when it was in service it was very successful. Andy is not interested in offering this vehicle himself, although he has a driver that would likely be interested. Andy believes it costs an additional \$10 to \$15 thousand to customize a vehicle to make it accessible.

Shannon wondered if there were any possibilities of partnering with a service club.

Doug wondered if the City could lease the vehicle and then turn around and rent it back to the taxi company. He felt this would deal with the issue of who owns the vehicle.

#### 2. Brock Trail

Doug reported that he had walked the entire trail one day, he made notes and reported back to Ryan on its condition. He felt that the downtown area overall was in fairly good shape. The middle section was in need of repair, adding that Baker Park was in the worst condition. Doug also took pictures of some problem areas. Doug felt it would be a good idea to report to the Brock Trail Committee on his findings.

The following is Doug's informal report:

As noted in the Brock Trail link, there are three sections to this route. Section 2 along the north side of Butler's Creek past Sophia St. to Front/Ormond Streets. is strictly a path through the fields there. No paved areas exist. This section requires further review but access is restricted due to the nature of the space. Section 3 runs from Laurier to Parkedale past the Soccer fields and east of St. Lawrence College. This area is the newest developed and fully accessible.

My attention was on Section 1 - Brookview to Centeen Park. For this purpose I divided the trail into street sectors moving in a southerly direction. At this time I would note some general observations. Curb cuts along this route were not always at the beginning or end of pathways. One might have to do a little searching in some areas. Sometimes garbage containers were situated too close to the path entrance or exit making it more difficult to navigate. The lack of lighting along the trail would render day access the most appropriate although some sections along the waterfront have ample lighting for evening use.

Legend: Throughout my observations I will use AP to denote (Access Point) to a pathway or bridge. My own rating code for a section or area is A for Accessible or I for Issues Exist.

Brookview to Central Ave. - Path surface good with some small dips. Access to the north field is only by way of a narrow step up bridge. The primary path is rated A.

Westminster School to Baker Park (Front and Stewart) – North AP somewhat blocked by a parking barrier rendering it a narrow access. The centre section of the path tends to narrow and is low so water pools in this area. Asphalt breaks in a few spots too. There is also a step up bridge to a field off this path. The most dangerous part of this route is in Baker Park – see photos, where the path narrows, slopes towards the creek and a retaining wall makes the path even more difficult to travel. Overall this section is seen as I and impassable to many.

Stewart Blvd. to Perth St. – There are sections where the path slopes towards the creek, the asphalt is eroding at bridge APs so very dangerous and impassable to most. A large section midpoint in the path tends to flood out and as one approaches Perth St. tree roots make the last section impassable to most devices. See photo. Rating – I.

Perth to Brock St. under Rail line – overall a wide level path with a few dips or bumps. An A rated segment.

Downey St. to Brock meeting up with the above path. – this spur is not accessible due to bridge stairs at Downey St. (Photo) and there is the need for an additional curb cut at one Brock St. AP. Rating – I

Brock to Elm – two paths in very good shape. Rating- A.

Elm to Abbott E, Elm to Pearl W and Abbott W. – the Elm Abbott E trail is in excellent condition and rated A. The other two spurs, are rated I as APs to both bridges have drops or rises and the path from Pearl W to Abbott W is narrow and very rough at the small culvert.

Abbott to Beecher – excellent condition and A.

Beecher to St. Paul and Gilmour AP- north pathway a bit narrow, south path excellent but overall an A. The APs at the Gilmour path bridge are raised and might cause some devices issues. Rating here is I.

St. Paul to Hardy Park – some may end up using Water St. itself as opposed to sidewalks. I.

Hardy Park to the Boardwalk – excellent until Apple St. cut through in front of the Harborview. Asphalt section missing so devices will struggle.( See photo). Also at St. Andrew AP and the Tall Ships Building, the route is blocked by a sign, the road is very dipped and rough and if the Harborview parking lot is full there would be no good access to St. Andrew St.

From The Boardwalk south around to Block House – currently no access due to the construction at Tall Ships. See photo. This is temporary but impassable currently. I.

Block House Island proper – A rated, although extra curb cuts on both sides of the little traffic circle would save folks from having to go out of their way to cross back and forth between the south and north paths around the island.

Block House to Rowing Club – A rated although some pavers lifting.

Rowing Club to Centeen Park – Travel can be along the north Water St. sidewalk. AP curb cut at Bethune St. steep. I rated.

Overall there is work to be done to make the Brock Trail fully accessible. I would be happy to explain to city staff any of my comments. These are meant as constructive observations and not a criticism of any department or person.

### 3. Tourism Office Update

Ryan spoke with Steve Weir of the Tourism office regarding their inaccessible office. Steve said there were a few complaints over the Tall Ships weekend but they were able to service the customer at the sidewalk. It is a top priority to get a short term solution to this problem as the Tourism office will be relocating due to new construction.

4. Brockville Public Library

It was noticed that in the May 28th minutes the amount for the light motion sensors and accessible doors for both washrooms was recorded incorrectly. The amount read \$52.45 including HST and should have read \$5,245.00 plus HST. The minutes have been revised to the correct amount.

**DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

Nil.

**CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATIONS**

Nil.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Nil.

**CAPITAL BUDGET - REVIEW**

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Review of Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee

Ryan reviewed the Accessibility Forum that he and Lynn had attended on June 20th. Ryan listed a few things that really stood out:

- Painting the curb cuts and stair edges in a bright yellow so they stand out
- Suitcase ramp program, simply a portable ramp that is contained in a suitcase when not in use, Ryan is going to look into this

Ryan explained that overall it was a great day.

2. Development of linkage to Festivals/Tourism

Dave felt that a checklist should be developed for anyone renting or leasing city property to ensure their event meets Accessibility criteria.

Doug had concerns with the new patio on Blockhouse Island. He has left a message with Conal Cosgrove regarding this but has not heard back. Ryan will follow up with Conal on this issue.

Mel has emailed Sandi regarding his proposal to assess accessible routes in the downtown, but has not heard back as of yet. Lynn will follow up with Sandi.

3. Museum Accessibility Issue

Janet explained that a patron at the Museum had complained that there is not a hand rail along the entrance. She also felt the Museum lacked accessible parking.

Ryan asked Janet to contact Natalie Wood at the Museum to see where they feel their facility is at from an accessible stand point.

4. Presentation to Council

Ryan has spoken to the recipients, John and Elaine McClintock, of the BMAAC Award who are very appreciative. The presentation has been put off until July.

Dave encouraged the group to ensure they get to speak to all of Council, not just the Committee as it only has 4 of the 10 members from Council.

**SUB-COMMITTEE AND MEMBER REPORTS/PROJECT UPDATES**

Nil.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by: Doug  
Seconded by: Janet

THAT the BMAAC meeting be adjourned until its next regular meeting scheduled for July 23, 2013.

CARRIED