

PETAWAWA ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

28 JUNE 2011 @ 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Karen Lafantaisie, Ilene Lemke, Karen Roosen, Theresa Sabourin

REGRETS: Sarah Laverdure, Sherry Soltysiak

GUESTS: Dave Newton, By-law Enforcement Officer

1. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
2. Welcome – Karen R. welcomed our new committee member, Karen Lafantaisie as well as By-law Enforcement Officer, Dave Newton to the meeting.
3. Adoption of Agenda - Motion to approve the agenda made by Karen R., seconded by Ilene. Motion carried.
4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest – None.
5. Adoption of Minutes of 31 May 2011 - Theresa will forward the notes from the Accessibility Forum with minutes from this meeting. Motion to approve the minutes of 31 May 2011 as circulated made by Theresa, seconded by Ilene. Motion carried.
6. 2011 Work Plan

Karen R. provided a review of the plan as presented to Council on 20 June 2011. Theresa reported that Karen R.'s presentation to Council was well done, well received and there were a number of questions from Council. Karen R. provided a further orientation of the plan for our new member and stated that the plan is fluid and SMART and should provide the committee, and subsequently, the Town, with a work plan that addresses tasks to move us towards reducing barriers for people with disabilities.

7. Accessible Parking Spaces in Commercial Establishments

Ilene provided the context of her and a fellow member Sherry's concern at there is a local store where the accessible parking signage is high on a pole and does not have painted accessible parking. Further, there are often no available parking spaces as a result of people who are parking illegally in the accessible parking area.

Dave Newton stated that all the business has to do is to designate parking spaces according to the zoning by-law; there is a question as to who has the legal authority for directing compliance to standards under the Highway Traffic Act. There have been changes to signage, parking space size and colour requirements. He recommended checking with both the planning and building departments to determine if they can shed

light as to the authority for ensuring that businesses keep their responsibilities up-to-date. Dave is responsible for enforcement and although the business is private, these types of requirements are mandated by the Province and Dave can fine (\$300) any individual misusing their accessibility placard or if someone is parked illegally.

Karen R. queried as to the number of accessible parking incidents and Dave reported approximately 5 per month during weekdays, stating that he tries to drop by a few times each day. He further elaborated that the maximum of any ticket for by-law offences is \$1,000 and possibly up to \$10,000.

Dave suggested that the committee write a letter to the store's owner stating the concerns and requesting action. Theresa suggested that the committee may want to bring this issue to the attention of the Police Services Board for their comment and direction. Ilene asked what concerned citizens can do when they see a violation and Dave stated to contact him during daytime business hours.

Theresa will draft a letter to the business for committee member review.

8. Audit Checklist

The checklist from Brockville was reviewed and appears to be more detailed than the one we use. Theresa suggested that this checklist be used for our remaining checks along with our current checklist and recommendations be brought back to the committee. Karen L., Ilene and Theresa volunteered to conduct the final remaining audits.

9. Member Input

Ilene - Ilene reported that although the EXPO 150 was a great event, it was not very accessible to persons with disabilities.

Theresa - Theresa pointed out that since we do not hold any meetings over the summer, we should determine if we will participate in any Fall Showcase or Leisure Shows to plan accordingly. Committee members were in agreement to participating either with the Town or on our own. Theresa also pointed out that we will need to have the webmaster update the Petawawa AAC webpage with information on our newest members. Karen L. will provide her contact information. Theresa will link with Sherry to obtain her data and forward it to Cyndy Phillips-McCann.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m. The date for the next meeting is 13 September 2011 at 6:00 p.m. Karen requested that the logo and signage development to the next agenda.