



PETAWAWA ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2021 - 3:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Alison Morris, Leah Cuff, Sheila Clarke, Theresa Sabourin, Lynn Davenport, Sharon Slaney

REGRETS: Kate Bennett

Welcome and Introductions

T. Sabourin opened the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

At this time, she introduced the Mayor of Petawawa Mr. Bob Sweet. Mr. Sweet thanked the Committee on behalf of Council on the work they are accomplishing to make the Town of Petawawa more inclusive.

Adoption of Agenda

Moved by S. Clarke, seconded by S. Slaney to approve the September 23, 2021 Petawawa Accessibility Advisory Committee agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None.

Adoption of previous minutes of August 26, 2021

Moved by A. Morris, seconded by L. Cuffe that the minutes from July 12, 2021 be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

Old Business:

There were no items to report.

New Business:Quarterly Workplan Review

Deferred.

Barrier Free Audit – Municipal Office & Centennial Park

The committee completed a barrier free audit of the municipal office. Due to weather conditions the Centennial Park audit will be completed at a later date.

The following items were highlighted from the barrier-free audit of the municipal office:

- Fire alarm inside the main door entrance is not accessible to persons in a wheelchair
- Washrooms are not accessible to persons with disabilities such as vision, hearing, wheelchair, mobility issues. The following issues were identified:
 - no braille sign on the doors to indicate gender
 - toilets are not Highboy style for ease in transferring
 - a person with a wheelchair could not easily enter the bathroom or transfer to the toilet
 - paper towel dispenser and coat hook are too high for persons to operate from a wheelchair
 - no flashing fire alarm for the hearing impaired
 - cabinet over the toilet hangs too low with the raised toilet seat, could be a hazard

Correspondence:

No items of correspondence.

Member Input:

A. Morris attended the Petawawa Business Advisory Network (PBAN) committee meeting and presented her concept of having local businesses have their outlets more accessible to persons that may suffer from posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) with clear signage on the entrances of their outlets on alternative entrances and exits. It was pointed out that this initiative could also be beneficial for persons with anxiety disorders that may experience panic attacks. A discussion was

held in regards to mental health training for business owners and their staff to educate them on recognizing the signs of someone experiencing a PTSD or anxiety/panic episode.

A. Morris reported the presentation was well received by the committee and noted that she has made some contacts that she will be following up with.

T. Sabourin noted having businesses that recognize and are trained to handle PTSD anxiety/panic episodes will make the Town more inclusive.

A. Morris also reported that she attended the virtual Petawawa Community Improvement Plan (CIP) workshop on August 31st and noted that the recommendation to increase the accessibility fund to \$5000.00 was accepted.

S. Slaney reported that there were many tree stumps at the Scentral Bark Dog Park that were proving to be hazardous to people as well as a step that was too high to step up. The Community Services department have spray painted the stumps florescent pink and are in the process of grinding down the remaining stumps and the high step has been temporarily fixed until a permanent solution has been developed. These two improvements have made using the dog park easier and safer for everyone.

S. Clarke provided highlights from her barrier-free audit of Kramer's Corner Park. Highlights included the following:

- Paths entering the park are graveled and uneven;
- Parking is on the roadside, sloping gravel shoulders on Gutzman Road and Heritage Drive;
- No lighting in the park;
- Barrier free benches are available for seating;
- Park and playground area are soft soil, many pinecones and pine needles which are not easily accessible for a wheelchair, walker, or anyone with mobility issues;
- Slide, climbing structures and swings are not easily accessible, no accessible swings.

S. Clarke also reported that she is actively working on updating the binders for accessibility at the Petawawa Public Library. S. Clarke noted that the entrance to the library has a rug that is difficult to navigate through with a wheelchair/walker/stroller.

T. Sabourin reported that she is actively researching the accessible standards from other municipalities. Currently, the larger cities in Ontario have accessibility standards which doesn't always work for smaller municipalities. T. Sabourin also reported that she is waiting for information from the County in regards to membership for the 2022 Renfrew County Winter Games Accessibility Committee.

L. Davenport reported that Petawawa Point Beach has easily accessible picnic tables from the parking lot; however, the trash bins are not close by or accessible to persons using a wheelchair, or other means of mobility aids. L. Davenport also noted that repairs completed to the outside of the Petawawa Post Office have greatly improved the safety of the walkway to the entrance of the building.

L. Cuffe reported that she is currently reviewing the “*Recommendations for An Accessibility Strategy*”, which is a comprehensive list of strategies that improve accessibility. Included in the document were “Site Accessibility Field Checklist” and a “Site Accessibility Audit Summary”.

T. Sabourin asked the committee members to review the document to provide feedback at the October 28th meeting.

Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 3'oclock in the Council Chambers.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m. at the call of the Chair.