



MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH GRENVILLE
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 22, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
Held in Meeting Room 1, 285 County Road 44

MEMBERS PRESENT Co-Chair Councillor Doreen O'Sullivan
Councillor Kristin Strackerjan
Samantha Lavitt
Lindsay Olmstead
Wayne Richer

MEMBERS ABSENT Carol Estey
Jamie Bertrand

STAFF PRESENT Chloe Preston, Municipal Clerk
Mary Remmig, Deputy Clerk
Senterre McKenna, Committee Clerk

A. Open Meeting

Doreen O'Sullivan called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

B. Land Acknowledgement

The Land Acknowledgement was read by Doreen O'Sullivan.

C. Approval of the Agenda

Moved By Wayne Richer

Seconded By Lindsay Olmstead

Be it resolved that:

*The Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting agenda for May 22, 2024
be approved circulated.*

CARRIED

D. Disclosure of Interest

None.

E. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

#AAC-2024- AAC-2024-11

Moved By Kristin Strackerjan

Seconded By Doreen O'Sullivan

CARRIED

Be it resolved that:

The minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held on April 25, 2024 be approved as circulated.

1. Committee Meeting Minutes - April 24, 2024

Chloe Preston noted that the new stickers have been ordered and stickers will be replaced when received. Doreen O'Sullivan to follow up.

Chloe Preston noted two options from Hillary Geneau - Blocking off time for NG Transit is difficult. Hillary Geneau offered vouchers to take a trip or she can try to block off a time for a group ride, but could be lengthy process. Kristin Strackerjan asked what would be achieved by taking a group trip. She confirmed she had used the transit before. Doreen O'Sullivan also has taken a ride. Wayne confirmed that he has not taken the bus yet.

Samantha Lavitt arrived at the meeting at 5:50PM

Samantha Lavitt confirmed she had not successfully taken a bus trip yet. She noted issues with her user profile in the switch to the new Blaise system. Kristin Strackerjan suggested emailing ngtransit@northgreenville.on.ca to help troubleshoot the issue.

F. Delegations

None.

G. Decision Items

None.

H. Correspondence/Information Items/Reports

1. AccessAbility Week 2024 (May 26-June 1) - Update

Chloe Preston updated - Council conducted proclamation yesterday evening. We're working with COMMS for social posts and media release.

Chloe Preston noted there will be a photo done on red shirt day on May 29th. All members of the AAC will also be invited to attend. Chloe Preston will provide an email with details. Kristin Strackerjan suggested getting a few time slots from The Mayor, Nancy Peckford to provide as options for the Red Shirt Day photo.

2. Washing Machine - Update

No washing machine update at this time.

Doreen O'Sullivan asked about the last meeting discussion, emergency response services being informed when going to calls for people with disabilities. Chloe Preston updated on discussions with Fire Chief, John Okum. Run through it with dispatch in Brockville. Concerns of liability if we are aware of an emergency response plan but something is missed during response. Chief is networking to find more information.

Mary Remmig noted that it was her suggestion of the sticker on the door to notify of certain disabilities during emergency response. Kristin Strackerjan asked if the same initiative is taken on by other organizations. Samantha Lavitt noted that publicizing a disability via signage may incline someone to use the information to their advantage. She is not familiar with any organization that would advocate for this type of signage but she will look into it. She agreed it is important to consider how the information is communicated.

Chloe Preston added that the Chief is speaking with Rideau Lakes to understand their process and monitor the success of the program. We want to be champions in certain areas but it isn't something that could be rolled out quickly in time for accessibility week. Samantha Lavitt noted there is a standard form in Ontario that is used as a method of tracking accessible needs for an individual.

Doreen O'Sullivan mentioned she encouraged the owner of Spa Jada to publicize their significant improvements to accommodate accessible needs. Municipality of North Grenville didn't want to give preference to certain businesses. Mary Remmig noted her suggestion of a hashtag. Hasn't heard from Comms. Chloe Preston advised of the nationally available hashtag #NAAW2024.

3. Accessibility Conference/Summit - Working Group Volunteers

Chloe Preston noted that Lindsay Olmstead previously had volunteered to participate in the working group. This is on the agenda to determine any further interest from committee members. The Summit would likely be in May of 2025 during AccessAbility Week. Samantha Lavitt noted that she could not volunteer. Doreen O'Sullivan noted her interest in a working group.

Chloe Preston advised that their contact information would be provided to Geoff Clarke at the County. The deputy, Andrea Bolton, will be in touch to schedule an initial meeting.

Doreen O'Sullivan noted her experience with three different height railings on a stair case and how it appealed to individuals of many sizes.

4. Accessible Needs Simulator

Chloe Preston hasn't had any luck with contacting the school. No one is responding. "Simulator" may no longer be the right word. She is inquiring about an educational program ran through the school.

Samantha Lavitt noted that there was a Maker Fair that occurred a few years ago in Ottawa which did have simulators. She explained a helmet that allows you to experience deafness and blindness at the same time. Maker Fair is an independent group. She will see if she can track down some information for Chloe Preston. Wayne offered his assistance with anything sport related.

Lindsay recalled that we were looking at the fall with respect to timing based on the sports schedules. She noted a separate organization similar to what Samantha Lavitt mentioned. She will try to connect with the organizer of the event she attended to try to attain the contact information.

Doreen O'Sullivan thought that this would be really interesting for the summit. Wayne noted his experience spreading awareness of Special Olympics. Kristin Strackerjan noted an event where individuals were able to play sports while experiencing a disability such as being blind. Samantha Lavitt also suggested having an education aspect to the event instead of just attempting to stimulate disability. Thought someone could come and host a workshop on how to be a good citizen to individuals with disabilities. Teaching people how to interact correctly with a guide dog.

Kristin Strackerjan thought another entity that may be able to assist with service animals would be the veteran's association for individuals with PTSD.

5. OHIP Covered Physiotherapy (PRO Physio)

Samantha Lavitt mentioned that Kemptville District Hospital is the only one that accepts patients on ODSP. However, PRO Physio is operating under the hospital license currently and is able to cover Physio costs via OHIP coverage. The wait time is about 6-12 weeks. It is on their website, but Samantha Lavitt thinks this could be publicized better.

Doreen O'Sullivan noted that Kemptville District Hospital has restrictions for covering physio via OHIP.

Samantha Lavitt is unsure of the triage/restrictions or how it is determined who gets it or who does not. A physician needs to write a letter saying that OHIP covered physio is needed which would provide an assessment and determine the treatment plan. There is no limit to the number of weeks, the limitation is mostly process and procedure related.

Doreen O'Sullivan asked if the hospital would be able to cap the number of patients seen at one time. Samantha Lavitt did not have confirmation, but does believe that there could be a cap on the patients. Kristin Strackerjan felt that there is long wait times for physio, OHIP covered or not. Samantha Lavitt noted that there needs to be permission from the province to offer OHIP covered physio at certain offices. Kristin Strackerjan asked if physicians are in a position to advocate to the province in this regard. Samantha Lavitt noted the break down of regional areas to two regional health care teams. She explained the process available for advocacy but expressed concern with the process.

Chloe Preston felt that was above the ability of the Committee. She offered other options for advocacy available to the municipality.

Samantha Lavitt noted that there are home care organizations that offer physio options as well.

Doreen O'Sullivan noted that the discussion would be revisited.

I. Other Business

1. Items for Next Meeting

Wayne Richer was supportive of the speed bumps installed in the municipal center parking lot.

Chloe Preston suggested replacing the NG Transit trip with the Physio update. Hillary Geneau will be invited to the next meeting with respect to ODSP and hospital transit. It would be great also provide Hillary Geneau with feedback.

Doreen O'Sullivan directed the washing machine update be carried over. She suggested members encourage businesses that have conducted accessible improvement to use the #NAAW2024.

Kristin Strackerjan suggested using the Chamber and BIA to get this message out to businesses.

Chloe Preston noted we will connect with Matt Gilmer to disseminate the information out to the chamber and BIA.

We will send out an email asking if any members are interested in the NG Transit Voucher.

Mary will look into code requirements for sound with PXO or other signed pedestrian crossings.

Items for Next Meeting:

- AODA training (Sharable Resource options)
- NG Transit for ODSP Clients
- Hospital Transportation for Emergency Situations
- Committee Workplan
- NG Transit Trip

J. Public Questions

None.

K. Adjournment

Moved By Doreen O'Sullivan

Seconded By Kristin Strackerjan

Be it resolved that:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

CARRIED