



MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH GRENVILLE  
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

5  
July 3, 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  
Carol Estey  
Jamie Bertrand

MEMBERS ABSENT Wayne Richer

STAFF PRESENT Chloe Preston, Municipal Clerk  
Mary Remmig, Deputy Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT Hillary Geneau, Director of Corporate Services

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**A. Open Meeting**

Co-Chair Lindsay Olmstead called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

**B. Land Acknowledgement**

Co-Chair Lindsay Olmstead read the land acknowledgment.

**C. Approval of the Agenda**

Moved By Kristin Strackerjan

Seconded By Doreen O'Sullivan

*Be it resolved:*

*THAT the Committee agenda for July 3, 2024 be approved as presented.*

**CARRIED**

**D. Disclosure of Interest**

None at this time.

**E. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Co-Chair Doreen O'Sullivan advised that the new service animal sticklers have been placed on entrances at the municipal centre.

Moved By Doreen O'Sullivan

Seconded By Lindsay Olmstead

*Be it resolved:*

*THAT the following meeting minute be approved as presented:*

- Committee Meeting Minutes - May 22, 2024

**CARRIED**

1. Committee Meeting Minutes - May 22, 2024

**F. Delegations**

None.

**G. Decision Items**

None.

**H. Correspondence/Information Items/Reports**

1. NG Transit for ODSP and Hospital Clients Update - Hillary Geneau

Director of Corporate Services, Hillary Geneau, responded to queries from Committee members during previous meetings. She advised on NG Transit's recent alliance with Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program which provide vouchers to individuals needing transit that meet certain eligibility criteria. She also updated the Committee on discussions with the hospital with respect to one-way trips for in-patients. Hillary further advised that receipts can be provided to users for taxes and credits, including the senior's tax credit.

While in attendance, the Director of Corporate Services advised the challenges with OHIP covered physiotherapy. She noted that there is only a certain amount of funding available at the ministry level and applications are not being accepted at this time.

Samantha Lavitt advised of her own efforts to reach out to the Ontario Health Team (OHT). She advised of our community resources spreading across two OHT jurisdictions.

Councillor Kristin Strakerjan asked if North Grenville is considered a lower priority than other communities.

Samantha Lavitt noted that our community would be at the same priority level as other locations looking for OHIP covered physiotherapy.

Hillary Geneau, Director of Corporate Services, suggested members reach out if they want to experience an NG Transit ride.

Councillor Kristin Strackerjan asked about rejections rates.

Hillary Geneau advised of improvements. She will be delivering more detail to Council in roughly November. The report will be reviewed with the Committee prior.

Samantha Lavitt asked how to reschedule transit trips if, for example, an appointment is running late.

Hillary Geneau explained the best process to undertake for rescheduling.

## 2. AODA Training ( Shareable Resource Options)

Municipal Clerk, Chloe Preston, noted that the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville have been talking about bringing in a facilitator to conduct ADOA training for businesses. She advised of a training resource available by the province that is free, however only meets minimum training requirements and is not tailored to businesses. Chloe Preston suggested the free provincial training is a good starting point and that the training be distributed through the Chamber of Commerce, BIA and the COMMs team.

Councillor Kristin Strackerjan thought that even one employee from a small business receiving training could be beneficial. That individual could take information back to their team.

Samantha Lavitt thought training could be offered quarterly to allow for phased training of all staff working for small businesses.

Municipal Clerk, Chloe Preston, noted that the online training can be taken at anytime.

Co-Chair, Councillor Doreen O'Sullivan asked how often AODA training is required.

Chloe Preston advised that it is only required one per major legislation change, however good practice is once per year.

Co-Chair Lindsay Olmstead appreciated the idea of having a business owner talk with other business owners about their accessible needs and improvements.

Samantha expressed interest in showcasing employers than employ individuals with disabilities, however was concerned that the focus may be too much on physical disabilities.

Co-Chair Lindsay Olmstead thought that this could form part of the communications piece to educate the public on different types of disabilities.

Municipal Clerk, Chloe Preston, reiterated that this is currently in the preliminary stages, but we have a resource to share with businesses as a starting point.

Councillor Kristin Strackerjan recommended proceeding. She expressed concern with nothing ever getting done if we wait for it to be perfect.

3. Washing Machine Update

Jamie Bertrand confirmed there have been no changes.

Carole Etsey will be emailing Jamie's landlord.

4. Committee Workplan

Councillor Kristin Strackerjan advised of an assessment tool used by the RVCA to assess the accessibility of outdoor spaces. The tool can be shared with the Committee and staff.

Samantha Lavitt advised of the potential challenges for individuals with disabilities when there is no internet access.

Municipal Clerk, Chloe Preston, advised of efforts being undertaken by the Corporate Services department with respect to internet access.

Co-Chair Lindsay Olmstead suggested the item could be removed.

Municipal Clerk, Chloe Preston, suggested revising the initiative to monitor the progress.

Chloe suggested modifying the item to suggest that it is about monitoring as progress is made.

Councillor Kristin Strackerjan advised how Corporate Services has been addressing comments and concerns relating to NG Transit. She suggested the noted concerns could be forwarded to the Director of Corporate Services.

Municipal Clerk, Chloe Preston, advised of the possibility that the next meeting agenda may be consumed by the Official Plan consultation with the consulting agency.

Co-Chair Councillor Doreen O'Sullivan noted the need for accessible parking on Prescott Street.

Chloe Preston suggested that be an agenda item for a future meeting.

Co-Chair Councillor Doreen O'Sullivan asked about the direction from Council following review of the parking study.

Municipal Clerk, Chloe Preston, noted Council's direction for staff to report back in 2 years from the date of Council direction to report on the implementation of the 8 recommendations following the parking study.

Councillor Kristin Strackerjan acknowledged the broad discussion about parking organization wide.

Samantha Lavitt, speaking to the work plan, noted that she has conducted OHT investigation. She reiterated that our resources are split between two OHTs and the challenges associated with this.

Co-Chair Councillor Doreen O'Sullivan advised of the relocation of day programs for individuals with Alzheimer's and dementia. Her understanding is that the program was moved due to the OHT boundary situation.

Co-Chair Lindsay Olmstead noted that, the take away from the workplan review, is that a good amount of progress has been made.

#### 5. Pedestrian PXO Update

Deputy Clerk, Mary Remmig, advised of the section from the Integrated Accessibility Standards that provides the requirements for accessible PXO crossings.

Municipal Clerk, Chloe Preston, suggested reaching out to Public Works to determine which PXOs in the area were installed under the legislation provided.

Co-Chair, Councillor Doreen O'Sullivan spoke about the courtesy crosswalk on Prescott Street being a safety hazard.

Chloe Preston advised that there is County involvement given the location and that the municipality could not proceed until there was authorization from the County.

Co-Chair, Councillor Doreen O'Sullivan thought a resolution should come forward from the Committee.

Co-Chair Lindsay Olmstead asked the Committee if the issue should be raised to make this a crosswalk instead of a courtesy crosswalk.

Councillor Kristin Strackerjan felt the courtesy crosswalk provided a false sense of security as many pedestrians think it is a formal crosswalk.

Municipal Clerk, Chloe Preston, assisted with drafting a resolution however acknowledged that there may be other considerations that have not been considered by the Committee.

Moved By Lindsay Olmstead

Seconded By Samantha Lavitt

***\*Significant Resolution***

*Be it resolved:*

*THAT Council recognize the safety concerns with the courtesy crosswalks at Prescott Street and direct staff to liaise and work with the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville to establish a formal public crosswalks with enforcement rather than courtesy;*

*AND FURTHER THAT Council directs staff to report back on options for formalization by Fall 2024.*

**CARRIED**

**I. Other Business**

1. Items for Next Meeting

The following items will be discussed at a future meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee:

- Director of Corporate Services Re: NG Transit Report November 2024
- Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture Re: Accessible Public Spaces Assessment Matrix

**J. Public Questions**

None.

**K. Adjournment**

Co-Chair Lindsay Olmstead adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

Moved By Jamie Bertrand

Seconded By Kristin Strackerjan

*Be it resolved:*

*THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:18 p.m.*

**CARRIED**