

Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, Jun 2, 2022 @ 2:30 PM

Zoom online

Minutes

Present:

Councillor Ralph Gidney, Chair,
Councillor Vicki Amirault,
Wayne Huskins,
Janine Stewart,
Tyler Roy,
Elise Johnston, Accessibility Coordinator, RQM
Amanda Gallant ASL interpreter

Absent: Mackenzie Colp, Kelly Oxner,

1.0 Call to Order 2:34 pm

2.0 Changes/Approval Of Agenda

It was moved by Wayne and seconded by Janine that the Agenda be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

3.0 Approval Of Minutes of May 5, 2022

It was moved by Mike and seconded by Wayne that the Minutes be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

4.0 Presentations: None

5.0 Work within Municipal Plan

5.1 Built Environment:

- Beach Meadows MOBI mat was put out with generally great reception and feedback, aside from one lady who tripped at entry ramp and hurt her finger as she landed on the rails. Elise confirmed the 6 mm lip is within Code but asked for a strip of bright yellow to highlight the change in material.

Site visits and design work has started on the new washroom and changing facility.

- The Astor Society received our letter recommending RBC-side entry ramp. Janine confirmed that this was well received by the Society but notes strong disappointment at lack of Region's commitment to full snow removal. While the lease stipulates that the tenant is responsible for this, the agreement was prior to the new ramp. She believes it's the Region's building and responsibility. They have the staff and equipment whereas the Board is volunteer with part time staff. Already the transfer of the cleaning contract is not going well. RQM will await the Society's official response and meanwhile develop time line for renovations.

5.2 Employment:

- Elise spoke at 2 training programs, organized by Employment Solutions Services for people with disabilities, primarily invisible disabilities, on the legal Duty to Accommodate and Disability Disclosure issues.
- RQM participated in Job Fair organized by the local Chamber of Commerce, Department of Community Services and NS Works. Elise was happy for the opportunity to tell the more than 12 Employers about her role and the supports that exist, not only for the built environment but the employment side of things as well. Great conversations and connections, including NS Inclusive Employment Coalition to employers. Over 50 job seekers attended, some interviews and hires have followed.

5.3 Education & Community Outreach:

- Elise was at the library for public awareness however there wasn't much engagement at all. Meanwhile she was invited to a Steering Committee for the new design process such that accessibility would be considered from even pre-design.

A survey has gone out asking the public for input on what a library should include. The link will be emailed to the AAC and Elise can go through it verbally to anyone.

- A new proposal for Seniors Apartment in Milton is being considered and the developer had been advised to contact the Region for information on grants and specifications.

- Liverpool high school has a new trades facility that was shown to various parents and community people.
- Elise continues to interact with a Social Justice Group (starting by Anglican Minister Cherry Workman and includes various social support organizations) and Schools Plus Inter-Agency, joining meetings and discussions.
- Before moving on, it was recommended that all members refresh themselves with the municipal plan, to see what we've done and what we can prioritize going forward.
- Janine mentioned that her mother enjoyed borrowing the mini ellipticals and in fact bought a similar one, so a success there. Elsie was happy to report that she's finally getting out in the community, allowing elderly and less mobile residents to try them out. Kim Halliday, the new mpal (municipal physical activity liaison) joined in Liverpool and will go to Caledonia next week. Flyers were delivered via VON Meals on Wheels.

6.0 Other discussions

- 6.1 A few municipal Accessibility staff from around the province have been trying to network to discuss lessons learned and challenges. It seems that many municipalities are relying too heavily on committees without assigned staff resources. RQM can be proud in the decision to hire a dedicated Coordinator for this work.
- 6.2 The Accessibility Directorate is reviewing the Act and have solicited input and feedback from those in the sector. It is generally seen to be good in intention, with good direction from the top, but slow moving in action.
- 6.3 RQM/Elise represented municipalities on a Public Sector Body Panelist discussion for over 55 viewers on the process of establishing advisory committees and developing their plans.
- 6.4 Canadian Disability Act, Action Plan and Disability Benefit Plans are in the news and highlighted through the Canadian Congress on Disability Inclusion. Elise enjoyed some presentations and will send a link to the recordings. Intersectionality is a strong focus.

7.0 Diversity and Inclusion

- 7.1 The Accessibility Coordinator, now being Inclusion Coordinator as well, had a first meeting with Diversity an Inclusion Team with 7 members of the community representing diversity. We reset

priority focal points which include small grants for various projects and public awareness building.

- 7.2 Outreach opportunities exist with Privateer Parade on Sat Jun 25 and Canada Day celebrations at waterfront of Liverpool. The two committees could follow RQM float to represent diversity. QCT could be back up for those that couldn't be on the road the whole time. Certainly information flyers could be created to distribute. Please reach out to Elise with ideas and availability.

8.0 Any other business, concerns, priorities?

- Janine asked about public washrooms. It is recognized as a lack and can be revisited as a discussion, although it is a great expense for both construction and maintenance and shouldn't be confined to Liverpool alone.

Adjournment at 3:30 pm. Next meeting set for July 7th, 2:30 pm, The Hub, Caledonia and Zoom.