

Northumberland Accessibility Advisory Committee

Minutes

Thursday October 14, 2021
555 Courthouse Road, Cobourg
By Zoom video conference - 10:00am – 11:30am

Members present: Bob Robertson, Christine Bayer, Doug Bates (until 10:50am), Hope Bergeron, Jason Ducharme, Kathy Richards, Selena Forsyth (until 11:00am), Shelley Althouse, Bobby-Jo Preston, Andrea Nicholson (staff)

Regrets: Karl vom Dorff (Chair), Caileigh Flannigan, Christina Gray

Guest: Adam Mc Cue, Associate Director of Operations, Public Works Department)

The meeting was called to order at 10:05am.

1. **Approval of meeting notes from Sep 9, 2021**

Additions to minutes include adding Rebecca Carman as a guest attendee and inclusion of adjournment time of 11:35am.

Moved by Selena, seconded by Kathy that the minutes from the September 9, 2021 meeting be approved with the noted additions. **Carried.**

2. **Action items and follow-up from Sept 9, 2021**

Action item 1: Andrea will present the final draft of the new Multi Year Accessibility Plan to the Committee and seek the Committee's endorsement of the plan for public consultation. **Completed under New Business.**

Action item 2: Committee members will bring any ideas on recognizing International Day of Persons with Disabilities (Dec 3) to the October meeting. **Discussed under New Business**

3. New Business

i Recycling Accessibility – (guest Adam McCue, Associate Director of Operations, Public Works Department)

Adam attended the meeting to follow up on the following 2 Council requests:

- Implementation of a clear bag option for recyclables for people with disabilities (Recycling Accessibility Program)
- Work with NAAC to determine the extent of the need for a “From Door” collection service, develop a feasibility assessment for the service and report back to Council.

Adam reported that 83 households are currently approved for the Recycling Accessibility Program. Approved households receive blue recycling tags to attach to clear bags. Public Works contacted residents who raised concerns when the 2-stream bin program was introduced. The program has also been advertised in the local newspapers at the beginning of 2021 and mid-2021, and on social media.

A smaller number of households may need a “from-door” collection service. County staff have to determine the extent of the need for a from-door service for recycling, green waste, and garbage. The County would pay a premium rate and the waste collection contractor is developing the costing.

Committee members suggested the following resources for collecting data on the needs including:

- using the Canadian Community Health Survey and Canadian Survey of Disability to determine the incidence of disability by type
- connecting with community organizations that provide support services to people with disabilities such as Community Care Northumberland, Community Living, United Way as they may know the number of households, they service who may need a from door service
- using local cable media or local radio

Action item 1: Andrea will provide Adam McCue with contact details for NAAC members who work for Community Care Northumberland and Community Living Campbellford/Brighton who offered to help with needs assessment for from-door waste pickup.

ii **Multi Year Accessibility Plan update**

Andrea reviewed the updated goals within the draft 2022-2025 Multi Year Accessibility Plan.

Moved by Kathy and seconded by Christine that the Committee support the draft 2022-2025 Multi Year Accessibility Plan and its inclusion in the next phase for public consultation on Join in Northumberland. **Carried.**

Andrea reported that Karl is working on a letter regarding integrated accessible transportation concerns which he will bring to the Committee prior to submitting it to Council.

iii **Accessible picnic tables and benches update**

Andrea reported that Karl and Selena visited the Carstairs Trail with County staff and provided feedback on picnic table and bench accessibility. A couple using mobility devices also gave feedback on the benches.

Suggested bench improvements included:

- higher bench seat - Current bench seats are 380-410mm (15-16”) high. A better practice for accessibility is 450-500mm (17.7-19.7”) high.
- slightly angled backrest – Current backrest is at 90°. A better practice is 95-100°.

Suggested improvements for the picnic tables include:

- larger gap to step into seat
- a lower seat of 450-500mm as above
- a seat that is open (extends past the table “legs” to allow for transfers
- A standard for accessible tabletop height with knee space. Manual wheelchairs and power operated chairs have different heights needs. No decision was made on how to meet all needs. Committee input is welcome.

Action item 2: Andrea will forward recommendations for improving accessibility of benches and picnic table to Mike Muldoon, Forest Trail Coordinator.

iv International Day of Person with Disabilities (Dec 3)

Andrea reported that the United Nations Theme for International Day is not usually announced until sometime in November. Committee suggestions for raising awareness included:

- sharing accessibility improvements, the County has made this year
- posting the day/theme on the courthouse chaser sign.

Action item 3: Andrea will request that Council proclaim December 3, 2021 as International Day of Person with Disabilities in Northumberland County.

Action item 4: Andrea to forward NAAC members information on International Day of Person with Disabilities from the United Nations.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35am

Next Meeting: November 4 (changed to 1st Thursday due to Remembrance Day)

Upcoming 2021 regular meetings:

- **November 4, 2021**

No meetings in July, August or December