



ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE Minutes

**Wednesday, March 27th, 2024 at 6:00PM.
TOWN HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

1. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

On March 27th, 2024 we acknowledge that this sacred land on which Smiths Falls is now located has been a site of human activity for over 10,000 years and is rich in Indigenous history. This land is the ancestral and unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe Nation. We are grateful to the Algonquin ancestors who cared for the land and water in order that we might meet here today. We are also grateful to the Algonquin People for their contribution in the making of the Rideau Canal which runs thru Smiths Falls. We are mindful of broken covenants and the need to reconcile with all our relations. Together, may we care for this land and each other, drawing on the strength of our mutual history of nation building through peace and friendship, being mindful of generations to come.

2. CALL TO ORDER

Chair L. Bingley calls meeting to order at 6:01PM.
Regrets received from Mayor Pankow, Courtney Preece and Stephanie Cates.
In Director Clark's absence, Jenny Davis attending as staff resource.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by J. Brown
Seconded by C. Agnew

THAT the March 27th, 2024 Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda be approved as presented.

Motion Carries.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by H. Trick

Seconded by Councilor C. McGuire

THAT the February 21st, 2024 Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda be approved as presented.

Motion Carries.

5. DISCLOSURE OF MONETARY INTEREST

None.

6. DELEGATIONS

CIP Presentation from Planning Department – Richard Grant, Jr. Planner

- R. Grant presents the committee with an outline of program one and two of the CIP program with an explanation of how these initiatives can improve accessibility throughout the Town. R. Grant provides details about the boundaries for the downtown eligibility and the application intake process. In this presentation, R. Grant emphasizes that applications need to be submitted prior to work beginning and that work must be completed in accordance with AODA regulations. R. Grant further details the examples of program one, which would be exterior upgrades (outdoor ramps, widening of exterior doorways, etc.) and provides rebate information (rebate up to 50% of the cost, up to a maximum amount of \$15,000.00). Program two would have the same rebate amount and would be for interior projects (indoor ramps, elevators, indoor door widening, etc.).
- C. Agnew asks for clarification on rebate amounts and payment process. R. Grant confirms that proof of completion and invoices noted paid are required prior to rebate being authorized.
- C. Agnew questions whether the pot of spring intake money has been used in its entirety. R. Grant confirms that it is too soon to say yet as the intake period is not yet closed. Any left-over dollars will be used towards a fall intake.
- Chair L. Bingley thanks R. Grant for attending and providing the committee with this information.

7. PRIORITY ISSUES

Update on AODA Business Breakfast Lunch

- J. Davis provides update that the Chamber of Commerce is still interested in working together to coordinate and promote such an event. J. Davis notes that Director Clark has been in contact with the Ministry, and they have a PowerPoint that could be provided which would be a good resource.
- Committee acknowledges that the legislation is prescriptive and somewhat complicated, so drawing on lived experience would be incredibly helpful when engaging with the business community.
- J. Davis suggests that striking a working group or sub-committee to define roles & clarify purpose and provide content & organization for this event is the next step. C. Agnew expresses interest in joining this sub-committee. Chair L. Bingley suggests that if other

members were interested in joining, they can let herself or Director Clark know and the Committee should connect with those members not in attendance to check on their interest.

National Accessibility Week May 21 – June 1

- Chair L. Bingley notes that this date should be May 26 – June 1.

Red Shirt Day

- Chair L. Bingley comments that last year's Red Shirt Day was very successful and is hoping to have another successful 2024 day. At last month's meeting, Mayor Pankow suggested Town Square could be lit up red and proclamation could take place during this time and follow up on this is needed.
- Discussion on previous suggestion about highlighting a 'Day in the Life'. Committee agrees this should be explored and Chair L. Bingley suggests this concept could be firmed up at the next meeting.

Social Media Working Group

- Chair L. Bingley shares an article about an app called 'AccessNow'. She believes this would be a good resource for Smiths Falls businesses and facilities/buildings. Chair L. Bingley suggests that connecting with the Town's communication person may be helpful in getting this information out to the community and businesses.
- Councilor C. McGuire asks if J. Davis could share an electronic copy of the article after the meeting.

Portable Ramp Research Report Back

- Chair L. Bingley shares that she was able to find a good example of a federal building in Ottawa with a portable ramp. She also suggests that the Town should have a process for those asking for an accommodation.
- No other comments from the Committee for examples of portable ramps. Chair L. Bingley suggests deferring this item until the next meeting when all members are expected to be in attendance.

8. CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS

None.

9. IN-CAMERA ISSUES

None.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

Discussion on taking an online poll to see which date would be preferred, April 17th or April 24th. This can be confirmed by email.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by C. Agnew
Seconded by J. Brown

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 6:29PM and stand so adjourned until the next duly called Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting.

Motion Carries.



ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Agenda

**Tuesday, May 28th, 2024 – 6PM.
TOWN HALL- COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

1. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

On, May 28th, 2024 we acknowledge that this sacred land on which Smiths Falls is now located has been a site of human activity for over 10,000 years and is rich in Indigenous history. This land is the ancestral and unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe Nation. We are grateful to the Algonquin ancestors who cared for the land and water in order that we might meet here today. We are also grateful to the Algonquin People for their contribution in the making of the Rideau Canal which runs thru Smiths Falls. We are mindful of broken covenants and the need to reconcile with all our relations.

Together, may we care for this land and each other, drawing on the strength of our mutual history of nation building through peace and friendship being mindful of generations to come.

2. CALL TO ORDER

L.Bingley called the meeting to order at 605pm

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Recommended Motion:

Moved by: C Preece

Seconded by: H Trick

THAT the May 28th 2024 Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda be approved as presented.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

None.

5. DISCLOSURE OF MONETARY INTEREST

None.

6. DELEGATIONS

None.

7. PRIORITY ISSUES

a. Red Shirt Day Photo (S.Clark- gather at the bandstand- after the meeting)

b. General Update (L.Bingley)

Tomorrow is official Red Shirt Day which is a day promoting solidarity with those living with disabilities. We encourage everyone tomorrow to wear red tomorrow, on May 29th, 2024 and participate in Red Shirt Day.

L.Bingley spoke with the Smiths Falls Hospital and the Perth Site- Thank you to Karen Kelly for her help in communicating and organizing this at the hospital.

J Brown was going to try to circulate the poster at the library to solicit participation.

L Bingley also participated in an interview with Kathy Botham to promote Red Shirt Day and to encourage businesses to participate.

St. Francis School will also be participating tomorrow.

L.Bingley noted that there was not a recorded meeting in April; we did a workshop style meeting where we gathered at the arena and we brainstormed some ideas around social media messaging. It was not a formal meeting, but was an opportunity to brainstorm as a committee.

c. National AccessAbility Week May 26-June 1 (S.Clark)

i. Proclamation from the Mayor

Mayor Pankow reviewed and re-read the proclamation that was read at the 21st May, 2024 meeting of the Council of the Town of Smiths Falls.

ii. Social Media Push

Every day this week, the Town of Smiths Falls is pushing out a statement related to the Accessibility week. Tomorrow is Red Shirt Day, and the slogan will be accompanied by the official poster as well as our photo that was taken today.

The language for this campaign was crafted from the discussions that were held during the April workshop of this meeting.

d. Social Media Campaign Review- AODA (S.Clark)

Director Clark consolidated the discussions that occurred at the workshop session in April, and drafted a series of 10 social media statements as part of the social media campaign related to the AODA. Key themes came through the discussions:

1. It is not simply about ensuring that those who have accessibility needs have their needs met, but also about celebrating the diversity and beauty of the community as a result of our diversity.
2. The role of the committee is not to be a legislative expert or an enforcer, rather the role is a convenor and an encourager. We can assist businesses and public facing individuals in this community to learn more, and drive them to the place where the information can be found (e.g. the Government of Ontario websites.)
3. Messages were provided to the committee for review; comments and corrections will need to be received by end of the week following this meeting. S.Clark is working with Town staff to disseminate the social media messaging commencing this summer.

e. Agenda addition- Update on BIG Forum (S.Pankow)

- i.** Mayor Pankow recently attended the “BIG Forum”- Basic Income Guarantee.

Mayor Pankow noted that our council passed a resolution supporting basic income previously, and that there is growing research that suggests that Basic Income creates better outcomes for individuals and families. Participants in the Ontario pilot indicated that they were able to eat better, and had better mental health, as examples.

Mayor Pankow noted that nationally, about 25% of people live with disabilities. In Smiths Falls this number is much higher. We have about 10% of our population that relies on ODSB for their primary income. The impact is deep on our community.

Mayor Pankow wondered whether there might be a role for this committee to advocate and support.

L.Bingley requested that we keep this on the agenda as the committee to discuss our potential role in the future.

- ii.** C. Agnew noted that the Heritage Conservation District open house is occurring this Thursday at the Welcome Centre. The accessible entrance for the Welcome Centre is the main entrance of Town Hall.

8. CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS

None.

9. IN-CAMERA ISSUES

None.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday June 19th, 2024 from 6-7pm

11. ADJOURNMENT

Recommended Motion:

Moved by: SCates

Seconded by: CAgnew

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 644PM and stand so adjourned until the next duly called Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting.