

St. Thomas Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee

**MINUTES
November 28, 2019**

Location: Senior's Centre
Time: 8:30am
Present: Ken Lizotte, Tracey Tiersma, Cathy Topping, Deborah Herridge-Walters, Sheila Rodaway, Leslie McClure, Don Shaw, Councillor Steve Peters,
Regrets: Graham Dart, Ken Moser

8:30 a.m. The meeting convened with C. Topping, Chair, presiding.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cathy Topping declared a disclosure of interest on the agenda item pertaining to a donation to Thumbs-Up.

MINUTES

Motion by L. McClure – S. Rodaway :

THAT: The minutes of the meeting held on June 27, 2019 be confirmed.

Carried.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

2019/20 Budget

Chair requested a breakdown of the account information and the expenses relating to both the Site Audits and the Open House. The secretary will request this information from the treasury department. In September, an email was sent to treasury to request to allocate \$3,000 for 2020 budget, which was granted.

Special Events

C. Topping had requested that the Moore Street parking lot be allocated as accessible parking for the Santa Claus Parade, the Lighting of the lights as well as the Remembrance Day service.

Site Plan Control

C. Topping has requested information on the new parking lot for 230 Talbot Street. The Chair also suggested that committee members should be given an opportunity to tour this building prior to its opening for tenants.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Members discussed the Accessibility Open House that was held on September 26th, 2019. There were over 30 attendees. Thank-you letters were sent to vendors for their participation within a week after the event. There were 18 door prizes but some required delivery because some attendees do not drive. This would need to be considered for next year. It was the opinion of the committee that the advertising of the event was a success. Members discussed the possibility of purchasing a 2 sided lawn sign and vinyl banner for use at annual Open House to increase visibility leading up to and on the day of the event. C. Topping will get 3 quotes and report back at the next meeting.

D. Shaw will contact property management to set up an appointment for recommendations of City Hall men's public washroom on the first floor and the placement of a grab bar.

D. Shaw shared feedback on his scooter ride with the Mayor. They attended 4 different corners accessible crossing concerns. Improvements were made to some corners within 4 days of the tour. Members discussed the placement of many crossing buttons and their lack of functionality. Councillor Peters suggested that any remaining deficiencies be emailed customerservice@stthomas.ca.

C. Topping shared information on the Federal Government's National Accessibility Directorate . Under Bill C81, the National Accessibility Act for Canada was implemented June 21, 2019.

Members discussed the frequency of Committee meetings and decided to meet monthly with the exception of July and August. For Open House planning purposes, the Secretary has created a template for use by the committee.

Members discussed attendance at Site Plan Meetings & Special Events Committee meetings. C Topping requested another member volunteer to represent the committee at the Special Event Committee meetings held the first Wednesday of the month at 3pm. S. Rodaway volunteered.

Members discussed inviting Ryan Hooey from the Canadian National Institute for the Blind Foundation (CBNIB)– Ontario West division to a February or March meeting to share information on their programs and services.

Councillor Peters took over the Chair position, due previously mentioned disclosure of interest, to facilitate the discussion on the monetary value of a donation to Thumbs-Up

Motion by S. Rodaway – D. Shaw:

THAT: The Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee donate \$450 to the Thumbs-Up Organization.

Carried.

C. Topping resumed the Chair position for the remainder of the meeting.

C. Peters shared that a presentation was given to Council on the City's new Transit plan that may be of interest to the Committee. Members discussed the proposed changes to hours of operation and routes and that they would take effect early 2020. Members decided to set a special meeting to request more information on this presentation. The Secretary will arrange this and inform the Committee of the date and time.

D. Shaw shared that he will be taking a break from the committee for the next term. The committee expressed their gratitude for his 14 years of service.

CLOSED SESSION

A resolution will be presented to deal with a personal matter about an identifiable individual.

Motion by D. Herridge-Walters – D. Shaw:

THAT: This meeting be closed to deal with a personal matter about an identifiable individual at 9:21a.m.

Carried.

OPEN SESSION

Motion by K. Lizotte – S. Rodaway:

THAT: We do now rise from Closed Session at 9:23a.m.

Carried.

NEXT MEETING

The Committee secretary will set special meeting for the committee to view the Transit presentation and discuss its impact on accessible transportation.


The next regular meeting will be held on January 30, 2020 commencing at 8:30a.m. at St. Thomas Senior's Centre.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by D. Herridge-Walters – K. Lizotte:

THAT: The committee adjourned at 9:28a.m.

Carried.


Signed, Chair, Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee


Date