



ARNPRIOR

**Minutes of the Accessibility and Age Friendly Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**  
**6:30 PM**  
**Council Chambers – Town Hall**

**Committee and Staff Attendance**

**Committee Members Present:**

Tina MacLaren, Chair  
Lynn Cloutier, Vice Chair  
Dave Furgoch, Committee Member (virtual)  
Amanda Harris, Committee Member  
Sarah Tait, Committee Member

**Town Staff Present:**

Kaila Zamojski, Town Clerk  
Ryan Wall, Engineering Officer  
Oliver Jacob, Client Services  
Coordinator

**Committee Members Absent:**

Tom Burnette, Councillor  
Amanda Deschamps, Committee Member

**1. Call to Order**

Tina MacLaren, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM and welcomed those present.

**2. Roll Call**

The roll was called, with all Members of the Committee being present except Amanda Deschamps and Tom Burnette.

**3. Land Acknowledgment**

Chair Tina MacLaren asked everyone to take a moment to acknowledge and show respect for the Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of the land we operate on, by stating:

“I would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we work and gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Anishinaabe People. This Algonquin Nation have lived on this land for thousands of years, long before the arrival of the European settlers, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to be present in this territory.”

#### 4. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution Number 005-24

Moved by Lynn Cloutier

Seconded by Sarah Tait

**Be It Resolved That** the agenda for the Accessibility and Age Friendly Advisory Committee Meeting dated Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 be adopted.

Resolution Carried

#### 5. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None

#### 6. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Resolution Number 006-24

Moved by Lynn Cloutier

Seconded by Sarah Tait

**Be It Resolved That** the minutes for the March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Accessibility and Age Friendly Advisory Committee meeting be adopted.

Resolution Carried

#### 7. Presentations/ Delegations

None

#### 8. Matters Tabled/ Deferred/ Unfinished Business

None

#### 9. Staff Reports

##### a) Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

Kaila Zamojski, Town Clerk, provided an overview of the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and responded to questions.

Discussion ensued amongst Committee Members with the following being a summary of the comments noted:

- In relation to the use of colour contrasting strips, it was noted that the yellow / black combination is the most effective for those with low vision; however, further investigation may be helpful for individuals who have certain vision impairments that benefit most from the use of red for contrast. Ensuring high contrast was noted as a key component of colour contrasting strips as an accessibility tool.

- The elevated writing surface at the Nick Smith Centre service counter was reported to have broken several times in the past when weight is placed onto it. As the Town considers its stability, additional attention to consider its placement in relation to the service window may also be beneficial to ensure that users are able to converse with the Customer Service Representative while using the elevated writing surface.
- For the schedule of accessibility tours, the following feedback was provided:
  - Fairview Park could be included with the Nick Smith Centre tour on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
  - Arranging for the availability of mobility aids (i.e. wheelchairs, walkers, etc.) would be helpful to identify accessibility barriers for those who have mobility challenges.
- Challenges with curbs while using a mobility aid were identified as an area for further review during the tours.
- It was noted that appropriate staff with responsibility over toured locations would be invited to join committee members on each tour to hear and provide content on the feedback received during the accessibility tours.
- It was also noted that the Town remains open for feedback on its accessibility policies and opportunities to reduce barriers. Feedback can be submitted through a [dedicated Accessibility page](#) on the Town's website.

## 10. New Business

### a) Roundtable Discussion

Tina MacLaren, Chair, shared that this item is an opportunity to share any questions, comments, thoughts and perspectives, with the following being a summary of the discussion topics that took place:

- Accessible loading areas at local schools was raised as a concern, particularly around St. John XXIII Catholic School. Recently, the accessible loading zone on Edey Street was removed as it was a safety hazard being in the middle of the intersection. Committee members discussed what other options exist to accommodate student drop-off and pick-up for those with disabilities. Based on the conversation, staff noted that they would reach out to the school to discuss options while also asking parents to reach out to their school directly with any accessibility needs/concerns.
- Community Living Renfrew County South has create a new Self-Advocacy Committee which will be focusing on education and awareness raising with the desire to have school visits in the future to educate on accessibility and how to accommodate for accessibility needs.

## **11. Adjournment**

Resolution Number 007-24

Moved by Amanda Harris

Seconded by Sarah Tait

**That** the Accessibility and Age Friendly Advisory Committee adjourn at 7:24 PM.

Resolution Carried