



Town of Newmarket

Minutes

Accessibility Advisory Committee

Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2023
Time: 9:00 AM
Location: Main Street Newmarket
500 Water Street
Newmarket, ON
L3Y 1M5

Members Present: Steve Foglia, Chair
Jeffrey Fabian
Huma Tahir
Steve King
Kathleen Kedzierski
Bev Moffatt
Mitsy Jones-Bailey

Members Absent: Kelly Broome

Staff Present: K. Saini, Deputy Town Clerk
E. Thomas-Hopkins, Legislative Coordinator

Guests: Mayor John Taylor
Deputy Mayor and Regional Councillor Tom Vegh
Councillor Kwapis, Ward 5
Tom Hempen, Chair of Main Street District Business
Improvement Area Board of Management

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM.
Steve Foglia in the Chair.
Members and attendees were present on Main Street.

1. Notice

Steve Foglia advised members and meeting attendees that this meeting can be attended in person by meeting the Committee on Main Street. Steve Foglia advised attendees that the purpose of the meeting is to review different locations along Main Street with the lens of increased accessibility.

2. Conflict of Interest Declarations

None.

3. Items

3.1 Main Street Accessibility Audit

Members of the Committee toured Main Street. They reviewed and discussed several locations with accessibility concerns or challenges and identified areas that could to be addressed.

Members discussed various aspects of accessibility including: 1) crosswalks; 2) sidewalk grading; 3) visual improvements; 4) accessible patios; 5) funding and grant opportunities; and, 6) opportunities to learn from other municipalities.

Discussion regarding cross walks ensued. Suggestions included a concrete slab in front of the button in order to create level ground and provide adequate range of motion for individuals using mobility devices. Additionally, there was discussion regarding the volume of the audio signals to ensure that it can be heard clearly, and that the timing of the crosswalk was long enough to support individuals who are using the space.

Discussion regarding sidewalk grading ensued. Members discussed the benefit of low slope sidewalk grades for those using mobility devices.

Discussion regarding visual improvements ensued. Members discussed opportunities to identify public spaces using medium such as paint or tactile plates at intersections to help visually differentiate the space from its surroundings.

Discussion regarding accessible doors ensued. It was note that many businesses do not have doors into their establishments that are accessible.

Discussion regarding accessible patios ensued. Members and attendees discussed barriers to enter restaurants, including their patios, due to table placements and spacing, with not enough space being provided for individuals using mobility devices to turn or maneuver without issue.

Additionally, members and attendees also discussed the value of restaurants that have adjustable or accessible tables available for use.

Discussion regarding funding and grant opportunities included a suggestion to invite federal and provincial ministers to meet with the Committee in order to gain a deeper understanding of accessibility challenges in municipalities. It was noted that the Newmarket Downtown Development Fund also provides an opportunity for businesses to apply for grant funding for accessibility upgrades.

Discussion regarding other municipal experiences in historic main street districts ensued. Members discussed the opportunities to learn from other municipalities that have successfully created accessible spaces in historic spaces.

4. New Business

4.1 Invite Provincial and Federal Representatives for an Accessibility Discussion

Moved by: Huma Tahir

Seconded by: Jeffrey Fabian

1. That the Committee invite the local Newmarket provincial and federal government representatives to meet with the Accessibility Advisory Committee to discuss accessibility in Newmarket.

Carried

5. Adjournment

Moved by: Bev Moffatt

Seconded by: Huma Tahir

1. That the meeting be adjourned at 9:30 AM.

Carried

Steven Foglia, Chair

Date