



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

From: Mark Buffone, Accessibility Compliance Coordinator

Meeting Date: June 2, 2021

Subject: Accessibility Staff Report, AAC21-017

Purpose

A report to advise the Accessibility Advisory Committee on the current work of Accessibility staff.

Recommendation

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) approve the recommendation outlined in Report AAC21-017 dated June 2, 2021, of the Accessibility Compliance Coordinator as follows:

That Report AAC21-017 with respect to the current work of Accessibility staff be received for information.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budgetary or financial implications associated with the recommendation.

Background

AODA Compliance

No updates to report since the March 2021 Accessibility Staff Report.

Built Environment Sub-Committee

There was no Built Environment Sub-Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 18 due to a lack of applications to review. The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.

Accessibility Reviews

The best way to remove barriers is to prevent them. Accessibility staff provide formal reviews for various development applications and during the planning and design stages of City projects, including projects related to buildings, public spaces, services, documents, websites, by-laws, plans and policies. Reviews and research completed in May 2021 include:

1. Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment applications

- 507 Charlotte Street: conversion of a triplex to a four unit dwelling.
- 670 Harper Road: proposed warehousing and office building.
- 789 Lily Lake Road: proposed development with 21 single detached dwellings, 24 townhouse lots and an open space trail corridor, coordinated with adjacent developments.
- 1139 Water Street: proposed 6-storey development with 52 residential units.

2. Site Plan Control applications

No activity to report.

3. Infrastructure

- Parkhill Road and Monaghan Road intersection: investigate opportunities to make the pedestrian crossings on the south leg of the intersection more accessible.
- Ongoing professional development: Watched a webinar titled 'What is a Walkability Study, and Why Should You Do One?' presented by Jeff Speck, a leading expert in urban planning and walkable cities.

4. Websites and documents

Accessibility staff support various City departments every week to remediate PDFs or provide content on the website, either as HTML pages or as online forms. The following list represents a sampling of projects, research and education activities:

- Summer camp and recreational programs guide: accessible PDF.
- Traffic count information: advise on options to make information accessible.
- Map of arterial and collector roads: accessible PDF.
- City of Peterborough policy template: accessible MS Word document.
- Corporate owner authorization form for Planning applications: accessible PDF form.
- 2021 budget in brief: advise on options to make bar charts accessible.
- Bicycle parking for your business or rental: accessible PDF.

- Heritage Hunt: advise Heritage on accessible PDF requirements.
- eScribe Council agenda software: ongoing feedback to vendor on accessible websites and PDF content.
- Planning application calculators: advise on options to make calculators accessible.

5. Bylaws, plans and policies

No activity to report.

6. Procurement

Accessibility staff provide ongoing reviews of bid solicitation documents to ensure accessibility is incorporated into every major purchase the City makes. Every project requires the organization we do business with to complete accessibility training as it applies the scope of work. The following list represents a sampling of projects that incorporated accessibility beyond the training requirements:

- Consulting services for electrical substation infrastructure: accessible documents.
- Storm sewer and riverine flood model and mapping study: accessible documents, accessible information and communication techniques for staff training sessions.
- Replacement of lab water purification units: accessible information and communication techniques for staff training sessions.

7. Partnerships

- Peterborough Regional Farmers Market (downtown market): review summer market vendor stall layout at on-street parking spaces and sidewalk zones on Water Street.
- Holy Cross Secondary School outdoor classroom: responded to the project manager with recommendations for walkway slope, width and surface, and provided a list of design considerations to help people with visual disabilities.

Council for Persons with Disabilities (CPD)

The Communication Coordinator attended the CPD board meeting electronically on Friday, April 30, 2021. The CPD is currently recruiting for Board members. They are planning for the continuation of monthly community outreach calls and bi-weekly Facebook Live updates on their activities.

Accessibility Training

Staff knowledge of accessible documents and PDF remediation continues to grow monthly. There are currently 59 staff on a priority training list and 20/59 staff completed intermediate level training. Staff are exploring options to make PDF maps and technical drawings screen reader friendly.

Accessible Document Clerks

The City hired four university students to remediate PDFs for 8 weeks. The Accessible Document Clerks will work to remediate about 20% of the approximately 20,000 PDFs on City's websites. The four positions are financially supported by the Canada Summer Jobs funding program.

Legislation

No updates to report since the February 2021 Accessibility Staff Report

Resources

No updates to report since the March 2021 Accessibility Staff Report

Submitted by,

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