



City of
Peterborough

TO: Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

FROM: Phyllis Hodder, Accessibility Coordinator

MEETING DATE: January 2, 2013

SUBJECT: Report AAC13-002
Review of By-Law Number 99-115 and Chapter 446 of the City of Peterborough Municipal Code to Provide Feedback on Accessibility Considerations.

PURPOSE

A report to the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) recommending that the AAC review and provide feedback on accessibility considerations of the City of Peterborough By-Law Number 99-115, an amendment to Chapter 446 of the City of Peterborough Municipal Code that regulates the use of sidewalks for certain commercial purposes in designated areas.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee review the recommendation outlined in Report AAC13-002, dated January 2, 2013, of the Accessibility Coordinator as follows:

That the City of Peterborough By-Law Number 99-115, an amendment to Chapter 446 of the City of Peterborough Municipal Code that regulates the use of sidewalks for certain commercial purposes in designated areas be received for review.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no budget or financial implications associated with the recommendation.

BACKGROUND

As mandated by the **Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005** (AODA) the AAC is responsible to review municipal policies, programs and services to ensure it is meeting the needs of the public in striving to provide a barrier free community.

A member of the AAC brought to the attention of the Built Environment Committee that when she is walking through the downtown core, many local businesses are putting up sandwich board signs for advertising in the middle of the sidewalk which creates a barrier for those with a visual impairment or physical disability.

On June 15, 2012 the Accessibility Coordinator and the AAC member completed a tour to observe impacts of sandwich board signs in the downtown core. A number of businesses were found to be in violation of By-Law 99-115. As a result, the Sign Inspector from the Building Division, hand delivered a copy of By-Law 99-115 to the majority of businesses within the downtown core, speaking personally with either a manager or the owner of the business to explain that the sandwich boards are creating barriers on the pedestrian path of travel, which can be hazardous to someone with a visual impairment or a physical disability.

By-Law Number 99-115, which was passed in 1999 as an amendment to Chapter 446 of the City of Peterborough Municipal Code, is in place to regulate the use of sidewalks for certain commercial purposes in designated areas. The regulation addresses the specific size of the sandwich board and where they should be located on the sidewalk. It fails to address enforcement such as fines, permits or withdrawal of the sign if placed in an inappropriate spot.

The City of Peterborough currently has one Sign Inspector who is responsible for all of the sign permits and enforcement throughout the City, including the sandwich boards which are located in the downtown core.

Since By-Law 99-115 was enacted over 14 years ago, a current review of the By-Law by the AAC, and resulting recommendations is appropriate to ensure current

accessibility considerations are reflected. Recommendations are to be considered as part of a full update of the By-Law to reflect current issues and standards.

Submitted by,

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Attachments:

Appendix A –By-Law Number 99-115

Appendix B – Town of Milton By-Law Number 087-2009