

## **Accessibility Advisory Committee 2021 Year-End Summary**

### **Vision:**

All people in Brighton, regardless of age and abilities, have barrier free access to full and equal participation in the community including opportunities for work, shop, travel and play

### **2021 Summary**

The committee has met 7 times since November 2020, both in person and virtually. In February 2021 we said goodbye and a heartfelt thank you to committee member Karen Taipale who was moving out of the area. By the fall we had welcomed new members Paul Cook to replace Karen, as well as Heather Ratz who has formally joined as a member from the Public Library. Community awareness project was completed in May for National AccessAbility Awareness Week through a set of 5 videos highlighting the AODA standards. This was well received and the committee fully appreciated the support of Brighton Digital Archives for this initiative. See below for further work accomplished in the past year.

### **Customer Service**

Provision of accessible, quality customer service in response to the diverse needs of the Municipality of Brighton. Supported through:

1. Continue to develop and improve municipal forms, applications and permits (online and in person) to eliminate barriers to persons with disabilities
2. The Municipality's Customer Service Policies and Procedures support barrier free interactions with its customers
3. The Municipality provides leadership to individuals, organizations and businesses regarding barrier free access to goods, services and facilities (potential audit for businesses)

2021 Summary: Both Council and this committee participated in education session on Dementia Friendly Communities to further support barrier free interactions with our community members. Municipal staff continue to work on barrier free access to council meetings, through closed captioning and live streaming. The Accessibility Audit for Businesses form has not yet been trialed with a business, will be forwarded to 2022 for completion and distribution to businesses. A new goal for next year including developing a procedure for temporary service disruption to accessible features of public spaces, as required through the AODA.

### **Information And Communication**

Provision of Municipal information and communications in accessible and alternative formats. Supported through:

1. Accessible internet, sites, signage and applications
2. Preparation and implementation of process for accommodations for next municipal election.

2021 Summary: The municipality has worked toward making its website fully accessible by providing accessible web and e-commerce forms, implementing accessible document software, and providing corporate wide training on WCAG 2.0 compliance and best practices for website accessibility. The municipality conducted a Request for Proposals process for an accessible online voting system for the 2022 municipal election.

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### **Employment**

Full participation of persons with disabilities in Municipality of Brighton employment. Supported through:

1. Provision of individual employee accommodation plans and emergency situation support for employees with disabilities

### **Accessible Transportation**

That all members of the Municipality of Brighton will be informed of available transportation options and be able to access accessible transportation within Quinte West and Northumberland County.

1. Expand transportation options to include timely and affordable options.

2021: Committee continues to liaise with Quinte Transit (formally Quinte Access) to support accessible transportation in our community.

### **Accessible Public Spaces**

Greater accessibility into, within, out of and around Municipality of Brighton facilities, parks, trails and public spaces. Supported through:

1. Brighton is a walkable community: walking routes and connections are designed for all uses including those with mobility challenges.
2. All projects come to the Accessible Advisory Committee to audit for accessibility needs.
3. Accessibility Standards will be integrated into all public spaces, facilities, parks, trails and sidewalks.

Summary 2021: Director of Parks and Recreation has come to Committee a number of times for Accessibility of trails and new Pickle Ball Court. A formal sidewalk repair and replacement plan was brought to the Committee by Public Works that covers 2020-2023. It is very encouraging to see progress on sidewalk repairs, such as at traffic light pedestrian crossing button at No Frills is now fully accessible. We appreciate the planning and completion of sidewalk initiatives in the Municipality of Brighton. New initiatives include potential of joining the ACE challenge through GeoMate GIS mapping company.