

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Date: Wednesday, June 21, 2023, 6:30 p.m.
Location: VIA ZOOM
Members: Councillor M. Albano, Chair, Councillor D. Keene, J. Bray, L. McKenzie, J. Pearce, W. Farrow-Reed

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY/CONFLICT OF INTEREST**
3. **RECEIPT OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**
 - a. **Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting held on April 26, 2023.**
4. **SCHEDULED ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**
 - a. **Acton Indoor Pool - Request for Funds for Portable Stairs**
Presentation by Jaclyn Neill, Recreation Supervisor Aquatics and Samantha Howard, Director of Recreation Services
 - b. **HillsvieW Georgetown Welcome Desk Update**
 - c. **Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Update**
5. **ITEMS TO BE SCHEDULED FOR NEXT MEETING**
6. **ADJOURNMENT**



**MINUTES OF THE
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday
April 26, 2023 Via Zoom**

Members Present: Councillor M. Albano, Chair, Councillor D. Keene, J. Bray,
L. McKenzie, W. Farrow-Reed

Regrets: J. Pearce

Staff Present: R. Brown, Deputy Clerk - Administration

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor M. Albano, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY/CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary/conflict of interest.

3. RECEIPT OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

**3.a Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting held on
February 22, 2023.**

Recommendation No. HHAAC-2023-0003

THAT the Halton Hills Accessibility Advisor Committee meeting minutes
dated February 22, 2023 be received.

CARRIED

4. SCHEDULED ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

4.a Activan and Transportation Update

M. Van Ravens provided the committee with an update on the Specialized Transit Plan that was approved by Council in 2021, containing short- and long-term recommendations to 2031.

M. Van Ravens advised the committee of the good news story of the implementation of permanent service delivery to Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital.

ActiVan implemented a 33-week pilot project from November 2021- June 2022 to have daily trips to Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital. The project was initially for students with ActiVan passes to travel there for a program. It was well received and other ActiVan users also began using the service. The pilot was so successful that the route has been permanently added and leaves four times a day. This route also creates connections to multiple services and travel beyond the Region.

M. Van Ravens also provided updates about pedestrian safety improvements including APS (Automated Pedestrian Signals).

4.b Community Improvement Plan (CIP) Grant

A. Nap provided the committee with an overview of the Accessibility and Energy Efficiency Grant available to commercial properties. The grant will pay 50% of eligible costs up to \$5,000. The committee will be consulted when applications for this grant are received. Information about this grant is available on the [Invest Halton Hills Webpage](#)

A. Nap asked the committee for their input on a potential grant application for 29 Main Street (Georgetown) between Goodfella's Restaurant and the Grant Thornton building. The application would be for the proposed paving of the portion of the laneway on the Grant Thornton side of the walkway. The Goodfella side of the walkway has had shrubs added and the other side is not safe for passage.

The committee commented that they are supportive of the grant if the walkway is wide enough for a wheelchair to safely pass, the material used to pave is safe and the walkway will be maintained either by the property owner or by the Town. A. Nap to bring the comments back to the applicant.

4.c Funding Request - Hillsview Georgetown Welcome Desk Renovation to meet AODA standards

C. Bodrug advised the committee that the current Hillsview Georgetown Welcome Desk is not accessible and therefore needs to be renovated to meet AODA standards. This renovation is not currently in the capital forecast, so staff have applied for grants from both the Federal and Provincial governments under accessibility to try and have the desk renovated this year. Staff were unsuccessful in acquiring funding from the federal Government and are still waiting for a response from the Provincial government. The cost of the project is approximately \$7,000 +HST if staff are unsuccessful in acquiring funding, they will return to the committee to request funding from the Town of Halton Hills accessibility fund.

Recommendation No. HHAAC-2023-0004

THAT the Halton Hills Accessibility Advisory Committee approves the concept of the Hillsview Georgetown Welcome Desk Renovation to meet AODA standards pending clarification on funding application results and the submission of a rendering of the proposed renovation.

CARRIED

4.d Accessibility Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (TOR) Update - Draft for Review

R. Brown advised the committee that with the new term of the Council all committees Terms of Reference are being updated in accordance with the Council approved template.

The Terms of Reference presented were a reformat of the previous terms of reference to fit the new template.

Recommendation No. HHAAC-2023-0005

THAT the Halton Hills Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that Council adopt the Updated Hills Accessibility Advisory Committee Terms of Reference as presented.

CARRIED

4.e 5 Year Multi Year Accessibility Plan (MYAP)

R. Brown advised the committee that in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and the IASR the Town must update their Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (MYAP) every five years.

R. Brown advised that the process of compiling information from the various Town departments to include in the plan has begun. R. Brown will be consulting with the committee throughout the drafting process until a draft for public input is achieved.

The draft will be put out for public comment on the Town's Let's Talk Halton Hills page and through other means deemed appropriate by the Town's communication division.

Councillor Keene recommended that ActiVan Users and Hillsvieiw members be consulted at the public consultation stage.

Once the comment period ends the final draft will be brought back to the committee for approval and for a recommendation to Council to adopt the plan.

5. ITEMS TO BE SCHEDULED FOR NEXT MEETING

- Hillsvieiw Georgetown Welcome Desk Renovation
- Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Update

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Acton Indoor Pool – Accessible Pool Ladder

Recreation and Parks

Submission to: Town of Halton Hills Accessibility Advisory Committee

Project Summary:

The aquatics unit requests that the Accessibility Advisory Committee fund the purchase of a removable staircase for the Acton Indoor Pool.

Background:

Total Funding Request: \$9,327.92, includes equipment, taxes and shipping.

Why Funding is Required:

The Acton Indoor Pool is that community's only swimming pool. It offers program opportunities for residents of all ages. The pool runs daily aqua fitness programs targeted to seniors and individuals with mobility challenges or injuries, for whom the water presents a safe and effective opportunity to stay active without the risk of falling. The pool also offers recreational swimming opportunities for customers of all ages. The facility receives thousands of visits each year.

The Acton Pool was built in the 1970s with little regard for accessibility considerations. Customers enter and exit the pool via a ladder built into the pool wall. The first step on the ladder is 20 inches from the pool bottom and requires a user to bend their knee at a 90-degree angle while supporting their bodyweight. The ladder also requires customers to reach up to grasp the arm rails and generate upward momentum via their arms and shoulders. These requirements are challenging for customers with a disability.

A chair lift is available at the pool to assist customers who are unable to use the ladder. However, this device requires staff to assist a customer by slowly lowering them into or removing them from the pool, which makes it obvious that a customer has a disability. This arrangement denies customers their independence and their dignity. Staff receive very few requests from customers to use the lift – anecdotal evidence leads us to believe that customers simply stop attending programs when they are no longer able to use the ladder rather than ask for assistance.

By funding the removable staircase and railing, the Accessibility Committee will provide residents with a safe, dignified way to enter and exit the pool independently.

Included in this application are photos of the pools current ladder and the chair lift. Also included is an email from Kathleen Cook, a regular facility user who describes her personal challenges with the existing configuration.

Risk:

It is not feasible to purchase this equipment from the facility's existing operating budget.

Acton Indoor Pool – Accessible Pool Ladder

Recreation and Parks

Without this equipment, there is a risk that customers who would benefit from the programs available at the pool will not attend to the detriment of their health and wellness.

Next Steps:

If funding is not granted, we will need to pursue capital budget support from council, as part of the annual budget process.