



Committee of the Whole Report

Report Number: CLK2022-003

Meeting Date: March 8, 2022

Title: Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)
2021 Annual Activities Report and Proposed 2022 Work Plan

Description: Annual Activities Report and Work Plan

Author and Title: Barbara Condie, Accessibility Officer, on behalf of the AAC

Recommendation(s):

That Report CLK2022-003, **Kawartha Lakes AAC 2021 Annual Activities Report and Proposed 2022 Work Plan**, be received;

That the Kawartha Lakes AAC 2022 Work Plan be approved; and

That this recommendation be brought forward to Council for consideration at the next Regular Council Meeting on March 22, 2022.

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Background:

The Kawartha Lakes AAC has ten (10) Council appointed members. More than 50% of the members are people with disabilities aligning with the legislative requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

The Kawartha Lakes AAC vision statement is “Opening Doors to Accessibility by promoting a barrier free City of Kawartha Lakes”

The Terms of Reference for the Committee, specifically Activities section a), states that the Committee is to prepare an annual written report to Council by the end of Q1 of each calendar year. The report is prepared to outline the Committee’s/Board’s achievements from the previous year in line with their approved work plan and to present to Council their current year work plan to include details on promotion of public education programs, review of other government reports, programs and legislation for any impacts on the City or its’ programs, and future City policy direction all with the view of advancing the City’s adopted strategic priorities and the proposed budget.

This report is written in accordance with the Terms of Reference, to inform Council of the 2021 Committee activities and what work is proposed for 2022. This report addresses that direction.

Rationale:

The Kawartha Lakes AAC has formed 2 (two) Working Groups, where 3 or more of the members of the Kawartha Lakes AAC gather to discuss, form recommendation and complete work in areas of:

1. **Public Spaces** (City facilities and other public areas such as transit, transportation routes, parks, etc.). This group actively provides comment to the City’s Planning Division on Site Plans;
2. **Public Awareness**. This group generates ways in which to share information and to raise public awareness about the importance of making our community more accessible. Coordinating the presentation of the Accessibility Awareness Recognition Awards (at a Council Meeting) is one annual event organized by this group that raises much awareness.

The Working Groups meet as needed (generally once per month) in the generation of this annual work plan and to fulfill the contents of the plan. Each Working Group provides a report back to the entire Committee during a scheduled public meeting on their initiatives, accomplishments and/or with presentation of a formulated recommendation with supporting rationale. The Committee then will determine and vote on whether the recommendation should be delivered through a report to Council, or to Staff for their review and consideration.

The 2021 year continued to be challenging with COVID-19 Restrictions once again preventing opportunities to meet in person. The Accessibility Advisory Committee members continue to learn new ways of approach and have realigned work plan goals and initiatives accordingly. The availability of virtual platforms such as Zoom have provided the members with an opportunity to engage and to continue some of their activities associated with the 2021 Work Plan. Committee achievements are summarized within **Appendix A** of this report.

Joining Council as they recognize individuals, groups, business and others for creating greater accessibility in our community is an annual highlight for the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC). The Accessibility Awareness Recognition Awards presentations resumed virtually on June 1, 2021 where Council, in partnership with the AAC, recognized (7) seven deserving recipients.

Outreach has been difficult during the 2021 year with limited access to areas, places and people. Increased public communications will be a focus for 2022 starting with the introduction of a place mark on the Committee's monthly agenda sharing information regarding Accessibility in the media.

Supporting the work of the Age-Friendly movement continued to be a challenge in 2021 due to fact that Health Unit resources, were and still are, redeployed for pandemic relief.

The Committee is pleased to report that six (6) submissions were prepared and circulated back through the Planning Division on new Site Plan Development. Reviews were completed with full comment and in some cases engagement with the developer/designer creating greater awareness of the need to provide enhancement to both exterior and interior accessibility to the new developments. The Public Spaces working group have created a draft document offering greater education to developers, suggesting that the document is to be circulated during the pre-consultation stage with the goal to encourage improved site accessibility at the early stage of design.

City Staff were provided a number recommendations from the Committee relating to City Projects such as the patio permit policy and events application guideline specific to the pandemic, Pandemic Recovery Task Force, Community Safety and Well Being Plan, the Trails Master Plan, Lindsay and Fenelon Falls Downtown Revitalization Programs, etc.

Although the members faced a number of hurdles during 2020/21, they have grown to overcome the challenges. They are meeting virtually on a frequent basis with evolving progress in achieving work plan goals.

Moving forward with the 2022 year the Committee will continue to meet to strengthen their community outreach and increase their involvement in a number of areas that will include but will not be limited to the contents of **Appendix B** to this report, titled – Proposed 2022 Work Plan.

Other Alternatives Considered:

This report presented annually as a requirement of the Terms of Reference of the Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee of Council.

Alignment to Strategic Priorities

Kawartha Lakes is committed to accessible, timely, knowledgeable, courteous and fair services as described in the guiding principles associated with the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan. The Kawartha Lakes AAC 2021 Activities Report and Proposed 2022 Work Plan supports and strengthens the commitment of Goal 1 in the Strategic Plan that reads: Improve the health and well-being of residents that further states that Kawartha will make this happen by Enhancing accessibility and encouraging and supporting “age-friendly” programs and initiatives.

Financial/Operation Impacts:

The 2022 Kawartha Lakes AAC budget has been set at \$14,000.

Consultations:

Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

Attachments:

Appendix A – 2021 Report of Achievements



2021 Work Plan
Achievements.docx

Appendix B – 2022 Kawartha Lakes AAC Work Plan



2022 Work
Plan.docx

Department Head email: critchie@kawarthalakes.ca

Department Head: Cathie Ritchie, City Clerk