

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RYERSON

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN December 21, 2021

Staff Review

During 2021, in consideration of accessibility, staff consulted with employees and some members of the public and council about any challenges they face when dealing with the municipality.

The municipal office has been in a temporary location for 2021, no major accommodations for persons with disabilities have been noted because of this temporary location.

Office Site: 28 Midlothian Road:

Mobility

- Persons with mobility disabilities noted that while the Township entrance is all on one level, operating the automatic door is frustrating at times as it doesn't open easily and the push button is in an awkward spot.
- If a person is not using the automatic opener, the door is heavy to open.
- Due to the building design there is really no other location for the automatic door opener button. Staff point out to people where it is and then they do use it. Also, when the door won't open easily, we have the mechanism adjusted.
- Perhaps other options for a different type of door could be pursued.
- The Township switched to a hybrid (in person and electronic) model for Council meetings. This provides easier access for members of the community with mobility disabilities, who are able to view the meetings from any location of their choosing.

Visual Disability

- Staff was working with a member of the public with a visual impairment and were able to accommodate their needs. Staff was able to enlarge the document on the photocopier so that it could be seen, the power point projector was also used to enlarge documents that were being discussed with the person.
- A member of council has a visual impairment, in the past for in person meetings, the power point projector was used to enlarge the documents being discussed and light blocking blinds were installed to help accommodate the person's need.

- Council was issued municipal laptops and email addresses. For the visually impaired person, additional software was purchased and installed on the computer to allow for screen reading and magnification.

Hearing Disability

- A staff member and member of council and some members of the public have hearing impairments and we all try to work together to ensure that background noise is kept to a minimum wherever possible. We try to speak clearly and directly to the persons with hearing disabilities.

Website

- In late 2020, staff issued an RFP for a website design consultant, to build a new website in compliance with the WCAG 2.0 Level AA standards. We also reached out to the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility for an extension of the January 1, 2021 deadline, which was granted and pushed back to April 30, 2021. A fully compliant website went live on April 9, 2021.
- The Accessibility Plan is on the website and noted in the semi-annual municipal newsletter.

No major barriers have been identified in 2021.

Council reviewed and adopted the Accessibility Plan at the December 21, 2021 Council meeting.

The Recreation Committee will be advised of AODA requirements if a park or trails are built.