

Accessibility Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

MANDATE

The St. Marys Accessibility Advisory Committee (“the Committee”) recommends and advises Town Council on matters to improve opportunities for persons with disabilities and to provide for involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to full participation in the community.

The Committee will advise and may assist the Municipality in promoting and facilitating a barrier-free Municipality for citizens of all abilities including persons with disabilities. The Committee may promote accessibility within the community to increase education and awareness.

The Committee’s responsibilities include:

1. Provide input on the Town’s Annual Accessibility Plan Update;
2. Advise Council on the accessibility for persons with disabilities to a building, structure or premises, or part of a building, structure or premises,
 - a. That Council purchases, constructs or significantly renovates;
 - b. For which Council enters into a new lease; or
 - c. That a person provides as municipal capital facilities under an agreement entered into with the Council in accordance with section 110 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.
3. Conduct research on accessibility issues, including liaising with third party agencies and support groups for individuals with disabilities.
4. Perform functions that are specified in the Accessibility regulations
5. Review matters referred to the Committee by Council and make recommendations as appropriate
6. Review, at least every 3 years the Town’s Accessibility Plan and recommend changes. Changes require the approval of Council
7. Undertake projects assigned to the Committee by Council from time to time.

The Committee will not be responsible for the following:

- Undertaking or directing the daily operations of the Town.
- Administrative matters including directions to staff.
- Reviewing staff structure, staff compensation, or other staffing related matters.
- Preparing, approving or delivering the annual budget and capital projects.
- Performing project and program implementation, unless assigned by Council.
- Reviewing any matter that may be subject to the Town’s closed meeting provisions.
- Acting as a forum to debate decided matters of Council, or a forum to organize political advocacy for Council to reconsider decided matters.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

- 1 Elected Official as appointed by Council.



- 5 members of the public appointed by Council.
- Eligible members of the public are those who are entitled to be an elector in the Town under section 17 of the Municipal Elections Act. For clarity, members do not necessarily have to be Canadian Citizens, but must reside in St. Marys or be a property owner (personal or business).
- Employees of the Town of St. Marys are not eligible to serve on Town committees. Immediate family members of employees are eligible, but only for Committees where there is no potential for a conflict of interest.
- Eligible members of the public include youth (under 18 years of age) who reside in the Town of St. Marys.
- Eligible members of the public include parents or caregivers or a person with a disability.
- It is preferred that a majority of the members shall include persons with disabilities representing the interests of citizens with varying disabilities. These committee members shall reflect the cross disability nature of the Act

GENERAL RULES OF OPERATION

The Committee is subject to the control and direction of Council. The Committee is subject to the rules established in Council's Code of Conduct and Council's Procedure By-Law. All meetings of the Committee are open to the public, and rules governing the procedure for Council meetings shall be observed by the Committee insofar as they are applicable.

All appointed members will be voting members, and a quorum of the Committee shall be the majority of those appointed by Council as members of the Committee.

At the first meeting, the members shall determine the preferred day and time for Committee meetings.

If the Committee refuses or neglects to give due consideration to any matter assigned to it or before it, the Committee may, by Council resolution, be discharged of its responsibilities.

ROLE OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

- The Council Representative is a participating voting member of the Committee
- The Mayor may attend and participate in Committee meetings as ex officio and shall have voting rights in accordance with the Town Procedure By-law.

ROLE OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

A committee Chair and Vice-Chair will be elected yearly from committee members to preside over meetings and committee business.

That Chair's role is to:



- In accordance with the Town's Procedure By-Law, preside at all meetings, and control proceedings and discussion to ensure smooth transition of the business as listed on the agenda.
- Vote on all matters requiring a formal motion.
- Report on the activities of the Committee to Council as required.

ROLE OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Committee Members shall:

- Report to the Chair any issues that they feel should be addressed by the Committee.
- Attend and participate in Committee meetings.
- Contribute time, knowledge, skill and expertise during meetings in order to fulfill the Committee's mandate and report their concerns and issues to the Committee.
- Abide by the procedural decisions made by the Chair.
- Disclose any pecuniary interests per the requirements of the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.
- Actively participate in carrying out the responsibilities of the Committee.
- Be considered to be voting members of the Committee.

ROLE OF STAFF

- Corresponding with members of the Committee.
- Is without voting privileges.
- Act as the Committee Secretary, including meeting package preparation.
- Research reports and prepare meeting packages in co-operation with the Chair.
- Give notice of meetings and prepare all associated correspondence.
- Preserve all records and correspondence in accordance with the Town Records Retention By-law.
- Act as a resource personnel for Town policies and procedures.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Committee minutes are to be provided to the CAO/Clerk for insertion on the Council agenda. Recommendations for Council's consideration are to be presented to Council in a report format under signature of the supervising Director.

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Members of the public serving on the Committee will receive remuneration in the amount of \$20.00 per meeting attended. There will be no remuneration for Council members serving on the Committee.

Reimbursement for travel and other expenses incurred in the performance of Committee duties will be paid in accordance with the Town's policies.

Any financial requirement of the Committee shall be approved by Council prior to expenditure.



FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

The Committee will meet a minimum of quarterly, with the actual frequency to be determined by the Committee once it is seated.

TERM

The term of the Committee shall coincide with the term of the appointing Council.