



Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes

Friday, February 27, 2026 at 11:30 am
Maple Court Villa - 5 Fourth Street, Walkerton, ON N0G 2V0

Members Present Maryanne Buehlow

Holly DeVisser

Tim Malo

Carol Patterson

Gregory J. McLean, Councillor and Chairperson

Kym Hutcheon - Deputy Mayor

Guests Present: Allie Hicklin

Staff Present: Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk)

Members Absent: Jenn Schlosser

Marion Last

Vision Statement

Working to build a strong community where every single person, regardless of ability, has an equal opportunity to participate, contribute and experience a sense of belonging.

1. Call to Order and Acceptance of Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 a.m.

Resolution:

Moved by Maryanne Buehlow

Seconded by Kym Hutcheon

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee hereby approve the agenda for the meeting on February 27, 2026 as presented.

Carried

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

4. Adoption of the Minutes

4.1 Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes - November 13, 2025

The Committee chose to defer consideration of the minutes until the next meeting.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

5.1 Committee Member Appointment

The Committee welcomed Allie Hickin to the meeting; however, Allie was not yet appointed as a formal member.

Carol Patterson advised that Marion Last is no longer able to serve on the Committee. The Committee expressed their well wishes to Marion and thanked her for her time served.

6. Correspondence

7. Old Business/Ongoing Projects

7.1 Accessibility Ambassador Program

Staff provided examples of similar ambassador programs and/or award programs from London, Brampton, and Vaughan.

The Committee discussed the concept behind the Ambassador Program and training that would be required for Ambassadors. The Committee suggested updating Brockton's Accessibility Ambassador Program to note that other organizations could be advised of the program, and the Committee could serve as an external resource. The Committee also discussed reaching out to service clubs with a formal letter introducing the program once it has been finalized, and suggested developing a communication strategy for promoting the program, including on social media.

Action: Staff to provide an updated Accessibility Ambassador Program for next meeting.

7.2 StopGap Program

Councillor and Chairperson Greg McLean left the meeting at 11:48 a.m. and Deputy Mayor Kym Hutcheon assumed the role of Chairperson.

Staff provided the Committee with resources from the StopGap Foundation on ramp program FAQ's and the process to request a ramp.

The Committee suggested obtaining quotes from local manufacturers.

Action: Staff to contact Freiburger Welding and Price Schonstrom to obtain quotes for temporary ramps.

Additional information will come forward on program parameters, potential costing, and measurement standardization.

7.3 2026 Accessibility Awareness Day

May 21, 2026 is Global Accessibility Awareness Day. The Committee suggested hosting Brockton's 2026 Accessibility Awareness Day on the same date, and looking into promotional materials that could be offered to local businesses.

The Committee also inquired if a logo could be created for the Accessibility Advisory Committee incorporating symbols for a spectrum of disabilities.

Action: Staff to develop a logo for the Brockton Accessibility Advisory Committee.

7.4 Draft 2026-2030 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

Staff provided a draft of the 2026-2030 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for the Committee's review.

Action: Committee members to email Fiona Hamilton with their comments on the Accessibility Plan.

8. New Business

8.1 The Big Door Warming Centre

It was advised that The Big Door are working to open a new warming centre at their location on Durham Street.

8.2 International Plowing Match (IPM) Accessibility Resource

The IPM Visitor Experience Committee now has a subcommittee for Accessibility. IPM Representatives are aware that both Bruce County and Brockton's Accessibility Committees are willing to help or review plans from the IPM.

Action: Fiona Hamilton to provide the Committee with IPM's Operational Plan for review once it has been submitted.

8.3 Municipal Election Accessibility Considerations

Staff provided the 2022 Election Accessibility Report for the Committee's review. The Committee were invited to share any accessibility considerations they would like to be incorporated into the Municipal Election scheduled for October 26, 2026.

No further considerations were provided by the Committee other than a brief discussion on prior year Elections involving paper ballots.

8.4 Accessibility Involving Businesses Selling Alcohol

The Committee discussed concerns surrounding inaccessibility and lack of space for mobility devices when shopping in stores that offer liquor sales, including convenience stores. The Committee requested that Council pass a resolution requesting the Province to consider additional measures to adjust floor plans to ensure that spaces remain accessible to patrons with disabilities.

Action: Staff to bring forward a resolution to the next Brockton Council Meeting.

The Committee also discussed a preference for gas stations to offer employees serving patrons in their vehicles, and inquired on whether the Fire Chief has any jurisdiction on this matter of public safety.

8.5 Accessibility Review for Walkerton Homecoming and Holmdale Rodeo

The Committee discussed completing a review of accessibility of the 2026 Walkerton Homecoming and Holmdale Pro Rodeo Operational Plans, once available.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, March 27, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. at Maple Court Villa, Walkerton.

10. Adjournment

Resolution:

Moved by Kym Hutcheon

Seconded by Tim Malo

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee hereby adjourn at 12:35 p.m. to meet again on March 27, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. at Maple Court Villa.

Carried