

TOWN OF KIRKLAND LAKE
AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY PLANNING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Monday, August 21st, 2017

Council Chambers
3 Kirkland Street
Kirkland Lake, ON

Planning Intern, Brook-Lynn Rozon presented the topic of “Transportation” to the Committee. When the grocery store bus was mentioned, it was stated that it is not accessible, has only two pick up locations and that the people using it are only given half an hour to do their shopping. It was then mentioned that Foodland offers a delivery service. When speaking of possible solutions to the barriers seniors face with regards to transportation, it was suggested that the municipality be the one to apply for funds and to distribute them among service providers in order to expand their services.

The discussion period began with concerns about visibility at the intersection of Tweedsmuir, Algonquin and Harding. As many seniors still drive, visibility issues are of great concern to them. It was suggested that the Town should consider placing a four-way stop at this intersection. Town Planner, Ashley Bilodeau stated that because a new four-way has recently been installed on Taylor Avenue, it may be easier to have Council consider another four-way stop at the Tweedsmuir/Algonquin/Harding intersection. It was then mentioned that the accessible parking spot on Kirkland Street is in a bad location as it is currently across the street from the services that those people would require (i.e. the Rehabilitation and Performance Centre).

Carpooling was then brought up, which had been mentioned earlier during the presentation. It was stated that a carpooling system works well, however, that it may put too much pressure on individuals. It was stated that volunteer drivers are beginning to back out of programs because the costs for training and the time they expend are no longer worth it. It was suggested that a carpool service would need to be organized, and that rather than have people call volunteers directly, a group would take the calls and organize the drivers. This could potentially be coordinated with Timiskaming Home Support (THS) who currently uses volunteer drivers. These volunteers use company vehicles rather than their own and are offered gift cards as a show of gratitude for their services. Questions were then asked about how the THS transportation system works. Caroline Morin from Timiskaming Home Support gave a brief history of the group and stated that they have revamped their services because people were falling through the cracks and

missing out on services. It was explained that their vehicles can accommodate up to four people at a time. They can also fit up to two wheelchairs in their accessible vehicles. It was explained that in-town services cost \$5 per trip/stop (\$5 there and \$5 back). There are different rates for in-town travel, cross-town touch, cross-town no touch, and out of town trips.

Discussions moved to how expensive it is for seniors to travel. Complaints were made against taxi fares in town and against the costs associated with travelling out of town. Concerns were raised that prices are not always feasible. It was stated that a senior's pension does not always cover all needs, and that travel grants for medical appointments do not always cover the entire cost of travel and/or overnight stays. It was mentioned that Elliot Lake is an Age-Friendly community and that since it is comparable to Kirkland Lake in size the committee should look at what they are doing with regards to transportation. It was then mentioned that Wawa, another Age-Friendly community, has a great transportation model for accessible vehicles.

The conversation then turned back towards parking. A suggestion was made at the last meeting to remove parking from one side of downtown in order to accommodate a biking/scooter lane was discussed again. It was mentioned that reduced on-street parking may discourage people from using the downtown. Concerns were then raised that business staff is using on-street parking which is supposed to be reserved for customers. The locations of accessible parking were discussed again. It was stated that many of these spaces do not have a dropped curb and that several have a tree or service pole directly beside them. Both of these prevent people from easily accessing the sidewalk from the accessible space.

It was asked that transportation to Arts Council concerts at Northern College be considered. It was then suggested that groups putting on events could allocate a portion of their funds towards transportation. Timiskaming Home Support has been outsourced by the Elder Abuse Task Force before, driving people to and from the Spring Fling event. It was suggested that when people purchase their ticket for an event, they can also sign up for transportation to and from the event.

Other things mentioned were: although Kinross pond is paved, the hilled areas can be difficult for someone in a wheelchair. It was also mentioned that some pedestrian areas in town have bricks missing which present a danger, specifically to those with mobility issues. It was asked that lights at crosswalks be extended for pedestrians and it was mentioned that the Town does have new, accessible crosswalk signals that are to be installed. Safety concerns were raised regarding the DTSSAB building on Tweedsmuir. Town Planner, Ashley Bilodeau asked that these concerns be brought to her attention in more detail so that she may mediate the situation. It was stated that a survey will be distributed on or the week of National Seniors Day (October 1st).

The next meeting will be held September 18th, 2017 in Council Chambers at Town Hall from 1:30pm to 3:00pm, and the topic will be "Civic Participation and Employment"