

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

**Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Council Chambers  
3 Kirkland Street  
Kirkland Lake, ON

---

Planning Intern, Brook-Lynn Rozon presented to the Committee, this month's topic, Outdoor Spaces and Public Buildings. The meeting began by discussing mobile scooters, and the need for separate lanes for scooter use. It was advised that the sidewalks are not maintained enough for scooter use and the downtown core is too narrow to allow a scooter to safely drive down the road. They discussed how parking on both sides of the road in the downtown core causes congestion and safety concerns for seniors. Some members thought it would be nice to eliminate parking on one side of the road in this area in order to add bicycle lanes. Members also stated that trees overhanging into the sidewalks are getting in the way of pedestrians, and that there should be better maintenance of this as many people are not aware they can request the municipality to trim them as needed. The group also discussed the length of time one can be in a crosswalk downtown. Brook-Lynn mentioned that in the City of Timmins, they recently extended the crossing time at lights. It has been noted that intersections with traffic lights are timed to suit the needs of vehicular traffic, and typically the cross walk count downs are not enough time to allow the safe crossing of the street.

Brook-Lynn then discussed buildings in the downtown core and mentioned that many buildings can be difficult to get into, as they have a step up or uneven entrance ways. She showed the group an example of temporary ramps that were created by the Stop Gap Foundation (SGF) in Toronto. The temporary ramps are to be used at a store front whenever necessary. The SGF relies on volunteers to create the ramps, along with assisting to bring awareness about barriers in the existing built environment. Brook-Lynn stated that this idea could be used in Kirkland Lake, and volunteers could come from the high school construction classes. Brook-Lynn also mentioned how it would be beneficial if stores downtown were able to offer free use of their washroom facilities. This would not only assist the aging population, but also parents with young children or people with medical conditions. It was mentioned by the group that all municipal buildings should offer free access to washrooms. It was suggested that in order to encourage businesses to make their buildings more accessible, the municipality could potentially waive building fees for any renovations with that goal, as many of these upgrades are already quite expensive. Brook-

Lynn then provided an example from another municipality where parking ticket fees from illegally parking in accessible spaces are used to assist with funding for accessibility projects in the town.

Snow removal in the downtown core was also discussed. During the winter months, many of the businesses rely on municipal snow removal for the sidewalks. However, this may not be sufficient as there are still snow banks between the sidewalk and on-street parking, forcing many people to climb over the snow bank. It was suggested that the businesses could shovel additional paths through the snow banks themselves. However, the placement of that snow may become a concern to the municipality if it is out of compliance with the snow removal by-law. The group also discussed the snow removal at intersections and on sidewalks, and how it should occur more often.

Another discussion relating to businesses was recommendation to host senior discount days on the same day as other businesses, along with an option for free delivery. Although there is a bus service to the grocery stores, and the Home Support vehicle rental for \$5.00 per stop, the group would prefer to see a “Hop-on-Hop-off” bus program that has more stops than the few that are currently established. Since the main focus for the session was to be related to Open Spaces and Public Buildings, Brook-Lynn recommended that the next month’s topic should be transportation.

Additional discussions were had relating to Kinross pond, and how it can be difficult to access the paved walking path. It was suggested that the sidewalk on Taylor Avenue be extended to meet the paved trail. The need for handrails along particularly steep portions of sidewalks was discussed.

A draft survey was emailed to each group member prior to the meeting, and feedback was received. Several people were concerned about the length of the survey and so the survey was reformatted to be shorter. Distribution for the surveys is proposed to begin in the fall. Some partners stepped forward, such as KL Non-Profit who stated that they are willing to hand deliver surveys to residents at the Fifth Street building and to provide a drop-off location in their main lobby. It was suggested to request this same partnership with DTSSAB. A list of locations to offer the survey was provided. Additional locations were suggested such as: pharmacies, Medigas and Mobility in Motion. The group also felt that the survey should be circulated to outlying areas, as many of the residents in Larder Lake, Virginiatown, Matachewan, Otto Township, etc. utilize our municipality for services, such as shopping, medical etc.

Three logos were presented to the group for a vote. It was stated that in order to brand the group, it is necessary to create a logo and slogan. In the future it is possible that businesses could use

this logo to indicate their business is age friendly. The group chose the yellow sunflower logo, and the slogan “Aging well in K.L.”

It was recommended that additional advertising take place for the Age Friendly Community Planning. Examples of advertising campaigns included: morning radio show, bulletin boards, newspaper articles, senior fitness classes and hand out flyers at Town Hall.

The next meeting will be held on the third Monday of month, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 in the Town Hall Council Chambers at 1:30pm.