

Age-Friendly Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 24th, 2019

4:30 – 7pm

Present: Maria Benjamins, Member
Sharon Tinkler, Member
Anne Learn-Sharpe, Member
Yvon Lalande, Member
Susan Makepeace, Member

Also Present:

Matthew Graystone, Ryerson Student
Madalene Albano, Ryerson Student
Diana Guida, Ryerson Student
Anneliese Gembus, Ryerson Student
Amanda Hoffmann, Ryerson Student
Humna Khurshid, Ryerson Student
Krishtian-Tyler Rampersaud, Ryerson Student
Nicole Cappadocia, Ryerson Student
Carmi Relova, Ryerson Student
Veronica Caloroso, Ryerson Student
Liam Munnoch, Junior Planner
Aimee Powell, Manager of Planning and Development

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Interim Presentation:

The Ryerson Student Team introduced themselves, and repeated an interim presentation they had prepared containing background information on how the eight WHO dimensions of age-friendliness relate to the Township, an update on the steering committee, and an update on survey collection.

2. Administrative Matters:

M. Graystone let the committee know of T. Jazwinski and Member B. Moore absences.

The changes made to the Steering Committee Terms of Reference, specifically to the guiding principles and qualifications section were reviewed.

3. Wrap-up Discussion on Housing:

M. Benjamins shared documents containing statistics from Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. A link was emailed to view the content online. It prompted a discussion containing the following:

- Food Basket cost scenarios
- Cost of food and housing among low income earners
- Context for cost of housing and living on your own – important to consider seniors living on the lowest level
- Sometimes we plan for the average but in certain cases it is worth looking at lowest level/income bracket
- Rent control senior buildings – 60% of people pay according to income & 40% pay according to market value (why the waiting period for rent geared to income apartments is significantly longer; 2-3 years) 1 on Centre St. & 1 on Margaret St.
- Margaret St. location is only rent controlled for 10 years? (property management company; Bayshore Lifestyle)
- Bayshore Lifestyle has many senior community living facilities across Ontario
- The bottom south end of Essa is missing when you leave out Egbert (which has similar house sizes as Ivy)
- Nicolston – another very small community that is worth being acknowledged even if there are limited statistics
- 10 year forgivable loan from Province to renovate your house - if you maintain residence there for at least 10 years

This concludes discussion by the committee directly related to housing.

4. Mind Mapping Activity:

At the meeting on October 3rd, the Ryerson team distributed a mind mapping activity for committee members to take home and complete. The activity had a blank box with some suggestions for symbols to use and instructed the member to draw their community from memory. Favourite and least favourite places and activities were to be included. Here is what each member shared while describing takeaways from the activity:

A. Learn-Sharpe: Very hard to find directions in Angus due to curvature of the road. (Going north vs west to Mill st.) Enjoys the trails and the trees the most about angus (bikes and walks Pine River trail, frequently) – went to trillium trail in Base Borden, other trails she has to drive to so doesn't frequent them as much. Has also visited Ontario Tree Seed Plant as she was involved with trying to prevent its closure - sometimes visits Buell

fitness centre on Base Borden

S. Makepeace: not aware of accessibility issues as she has a car and still able-bodied. Would be interested in hearing from people who are not as mobile
Essa is so spread out and if you don't have a vehicle it would be incredibly challenging to get around

S. Tinkler: Essa does have great sidewalks and walkways (along Willoughby Rd going to town), as well as many benches. There are some nice trails but you have to have good mobility. (A nice trail going to Borden [trillium] – Pine river trail: entrance near peacekeepers park, and near Nottawasaga fishing park, parking near baseball diamond just off Centre St.) -finds trail information online (A. Learn-Sharpe lives near there and has explored that area a lot) Signage has improved over the last 2 years. Two nice benches in LeClair park

Y. Lalande: works part time, stays at home, drives around – is not involved with community – lives in a cocoon – doesn't need to be involved with things because he can't afford them – his community has everything he needs – if there is something missing he goes to Base Borden – VP on church board because they needed a bilingual person

M. Benjamins: home is her base – her favourite place in Essa. She walks a lot around her property (100 acres) as it is easy and accessible and she doesn't need to drive. Doesn't like to drive far distances if she doesn't have to. Baxter Living Faith church -not a member but attends dinners and events (large turnouts -arrive on time or no meal). Camp Hill – residential area with adults with mental challenges and have beautiful grounds and event hall -Harvest Fest – 200 acre property. Utopia conservation area on bear creek, Cookstown / Thornton trail, enjoys outdoor activities that she doesn't have to drive to reach. Pinewoods Chapel does biweekly lunches on Wednesday and is offering a Christmas day dinner for those without family. Raised that a sidewalk study – done by planning student 5 years ago – sidewalk inventory might be valuable. People in scooters ride on the road because sidewalk grooves are a hassle (expansion grooves). Riding bike on side roads in the middle of the day would be safe but during rush-hour it would be too busy (5th line especially when Honda manufacturing plant lets out). Healthy Community Committee looked into bike lanes a couple years ago but due to regulations it was too costly to implement. Opportunity for trail network up to Barrie? Fifth Line – traffic is too fast and with more narrow lanes -due to bike lanes- traffic would be forced to slow down. Rippon trail - Offshoot of Pine river trail – near highway 90 - offers protected biking/walking trail with curb buffer

Transportation was a large part of all committee members mind maps'.

5. WHO Topic Discussion: Transportation

The committee began their discussion on the topic of transportation for seniors in Essa. This discussion yielded the following:

- Update to information sheets: only 1 cab company and 90 bus route from Barrie is ending)

- 90 Bus route had many stops and is being 'replaced' by Linx which will only have 1 stop – not actually replacing – 2 separate issues, Barrie did feasibility study
- A. Powell, Manager of Planning, explained that Essa has is working with Abe taxi to provide subsidized services (\$2-3 rate – largely subsidized by county)
- Direct connection with taxi and Linx bus would solve some issues
- “If you choose to live rurally, you have made a choice” – shouldn't be expected that Essa Township provide taxi service to people living far away. If you aren't mobile then you should live closer to the services you need
- Restrict needs to local services and provide transportation for people to get around those services
- Transportation doesn't only mean vehicles but must consider pedestrians – consider other aspects – provide access for senior community near places they would be frequenting – many amenities along Mill St but not very accessible for seniors, very few benches and no shelter
 - Urban design guidelines can be
 - Township just submitted application for \$50,000 grant to provide corridor study of Mill St
- There are hubs -library hub with library, high school, community centre, etc. – but they require greater connectivity, narrow sidewalks on Mill St. bridge
 - School board has fenced whole park which has made it challenging for Seniors living in nearby building to access library – if there was a gate and a path it would be much more accessible for seniors to the whole hub

This concludes the committees discussion directly related to the topic of transportation.

6. Member Profile Consent Forms and Photographs

The Ryerson Student Team reiterated that they are in the process of taking the individual interviews they conducted with the Committee Members and turning them into profiles to be used in the final report.

A photograph was taken of each present committee member.

A consent form was signed by each present member that gives permission to the Ryerson team to use the information contained in the interviews, as well as the photograph. This form and a photograph are still needed from T. Jazwinski and B. Moore.

7. Adjournment

The next Age-Friendly Steering Committee Meeting will be held at the Township Administrative Centre, in Council Chambers, on November 7th beginning at 5:00PM.

The meeting was adjourned at around 7:00PM.