

**Pelham Active Transportation Committee
Minutes**

Tuesday, May 12, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

Location: via teleconference

Attendance: Bea Clark (Chair), Brian Baty (Vice Chair), Lisa Gallant (recorder), Rhys Evans, Bob Fish, Dave Nicholson, Barbara Rybiak, Councillor John Wink, Regional Councillor Diana Huson. Staff: Jason Marr
Regrets: N/A

1. Call to Order and Declaration of Quorum

Declaring that a quorum was present, Chair Clark called the meeting to order.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Jason requested that two additional items be added under new business Item 8.3 Pelham Street Engineering update and Item 8.4 Report to Council regarding the planned pavement of the Steve Bauer Trail from Port Robinson Road

Moved by: B. Baty

Seconded by: D. Nicholson

THAT the agenda for the May 12, 2020 meeting be adopted as amended.

Carried

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

None.

4. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by: B. Rybiak

Seconded by: B. Baty

THAT the minutes from Tuesday, Feb 11, 2020 meeting be approved.

Carried

6. Business Arising from Minutes – Tuesday, Feb 11, 2020

6.1 Review of AT Master Plan subcommittee update

A first draft of the report has been reviewed by the members of the sub-committee (Bob, Dave and Brian). With this feedback, Bea will prepare a second draft for the sub-committee's review prior to review by the PATC. The final report will be shared with Council in the fall.

6.2 PATC budget
A report going to Council about the impact of Covid-19 on the Town's budget. The expectation is that PATC's budget will be available to promote local AT facilities.

6.3 TOP representative on Region's Greater Niagara Circle Route committee
Councillor Wink indicated that the Town is waiting for the committee's Terms of Reference before a decision regarding representation is made.

Action: Councillor Huson will follow-up with the Region.

6.4 Meeting at GAG re Flexible delineators
Jason noted that the delineators will be reinstalled when school is in session. In the fall, this area will likely be affected by Pelham Street reconstruction. There may be an opportunity during reconstruction to include permanent road design features to calm traffic.

6.5 Additional questions for C. Ryall
No update.

6.6 Spring 2020 Forestry or Jane's Walk
This activity is on hold. Dave has secured a guide for the walk. When we are ready to set a date, we can engage Town's communication staff for support.

6.7 Update re draft Neighbourhood Traffic Management
Town staff revised the policy based on comments received, including the comments from the PATC. Staff plan to bring a report to Council in June or July. This will be circulated to PATC before that report is presented.

Action: J. Marr will circulate revised report to PATC.

6.8 Update re Crossings on Pelham Street
TOP staff continue to explore available options as Pelham Street reconstruction is planned and designed. Rhys reiterated that the timing of pedestrian crossing signals must take accessibility into account.

6.9 Access to Lathrop Property
This request will go to Council as discussed at the last meeting. Jason noted that staff have had that discussion with the Nature Conservancy of Canada. There are sight line issues for parking access on Haist Street. Pedestrian access from Haist Street is the primary concern.

Action: Councillor Wink will flag this for Council when the approved PATC minutes are received for review.

7 Committee Events and Reports

7.1 Summerfest

Following the guidance and direction of the Province and Niagara Public Health regarding gatherings, essential services, and tactics to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Summerfest has been cancelled this year.

7.2 Senior's Advisory Committee

Lisa agreed to respond to SAC's request regarding an interest to feature e-bikes during a Seniors' Without Walls session.

7.3 Active School Travel

No update.

7.4 Farmer's Market

It is anticipated that the Farmer's Market will operate but in a reduced format.

7.5 Canada Day Parade

Following the guidance and direction of the Province and Niagara Public Health regarding gatherings, essential services, and tactics to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Canada Day parade has been cancelled this year. Some virtual activities are planned.

8 New Business

8.1 Given the impact of the pandemic:

PATC members discussed the following two issues and suggested opportunities and methods to highlight that active transportation is essential to the health and well-being of residents.

How to encourage residents' renewed interest in walking and cycling for physical and mental health?

1. Reach out to John Swart about an article in the Voice featuring available trails, as well as safe cycling and pedestrian activity and the need for drivers to share the road. – Bea will contact John to initiate this.
2. Have a competition about the prettiest, most walkable streets in Pelham to bring attention to great walking areas. Might also look at keeping local roads open to local traffic only to increase access to pedestrians, as many other cities and areas are now doing.

3. There are questions about access to parks. Jason explained that parks are open but people are not to congregate in them and the equipment cannot be used.
4. With more people using roads for walking and cycling, we need messaging to support active use of our public spaces including messaging about sharing the road and drivers watching out for pedestrians and cyclists. Perhaps this messaging can come from our civic leaders.
5. Explore with staff any opportunities to advance or pilot some of the infrastructure items that are forecasted in our ATMP e.g., new sidewalks or protected bike lanes.
6. Promote outdoor trails at the MCC and the walking track, as well as at other community locations. Brian and Barb might take the lead on this in the fall.

How to ensure the importance of access to safe walking and cycling routes is reinforced with Council? Community?

1. Councillor Wink noted a need to prioritize the plan for sidewalks and recommending this plan to Council so that the plan is included in the 10-year capital budget forecast. Sidewalks with boulevards are preferred where possible rather than curb faced sidewalk.
2. Jason noted that whenever a roadway is reconstructed, staff plan for active transportation facilities where possible.
3. There is a need for pedestrian and cycling counters to build the case for additional infrastructure.

Other issues?

1. Is there opportunity to turn parking lots or spaces into parkettes to allow additional room for restaurants, to allow for physical distancing, when they are allowed to open? Other communities are planning for this.
2. The interest in e-bikes is increasing. Bob will circulate the link to a recent article.
3. The Bruce Trail will be opened on Friday, May15, 2020.

8.2. Rescheduling:

- Update re Niagara Cycling Clubs Alliance review of Share the Road Feedback – Dave Hunt
Will defer this discussion until the Fall.

- 2021 Canada Games Presentation and Discussion Barry Wright, CEO and Nick Snow, Director, Sport and Athlete Services
Will likely defer this presentation until the Fall. This presentation may be done virtually.
- Joint meeting with Thorold and Welland AT Committees
No update. Bea will contact the chair of the Thorold AT committee and defer the next meeting until the fall.

8.3. Pelham Street Reconstruction project

Jason reported on this project which is planned in four phases and includes reconstruction to the Town limit near Woodlands of Sunset. Design work is underway for phase 1 from College Street S. to Port Robinson and phase 2 from Port Robinson Road to John/Pancake. A consultant has been retained to work on the design, based on the original 2013 plan. The PATC will have an opportunity to review the design.

There are plans for on road cycling facilities, except for one small stretch near Elizabeth to Port Robinson. There will be new concrete curb facing sidewalks on the west side of Pelham and a 1.5 m wide concrete sidewalk with boulevard on the east side.

There is a need to address safety of students walking and cycling to G.A.Green school. Traffic calming measures in front of the school are intended. Staff are exploring the use of coloured pavement as well as other measures to improve safety.

Construction will commence in the fall. Town staff are reviewing options to secure public input such as a virtual open house, the use of social media and/or the Voice.

Action: J.Marr will send design to PATC for review and comment prior to public review.

8.4. Report to council to pave Steve Bauer Trail

The original plan was to pave the section of the trail from Port Robinson to Quaker Road. The Town is working on cost estimates given the \$100k available through the grant. There may be changes to the pathway pending development plans in Kunda Park are which could affect the paving of the trail.

PATC reminded staff of their prior request to provide input for planned developments/site plans such as Kunda Park. This recommendation is supported in the ATMP and the Director of Planning agreed to this request at a previous PATC meeting.

Action: J. Marr will check with Director, Planning Department regarding the review of the Kunda Park development plans.

9 Adjournment

Moved by: R. Evans

Seconded by: B. Fish

**THAT the meeting of PATC Committee be adjourned until the next meeting.
Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Upcoming meetings, 2020:

June 16, 2020

September 15, 2020

October 20, 2020

November 17, 2020

December 15, 2020