

Extract from the draft minutes of the April 28, 2014 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting

8.2 Construction Barriers - Troy Nauffts

Mr. Nauffts requested that someone present and discuss with the Committee the standards around construction barriers.

He explained that the pavement has been dug up around the Dartmouth Ferry Terminal without any barricade being erected. Mr. Nauffts said that if his dog did not come to an abrupt stop he would have fallen into a hole. While Mr. Nauffts was leaving a worker yelled over to him to be careful because there was a barrier on the ground.

The Committee discussed that the last time that this item came up there were issues around jurisdictions, Committee members recalled that construction barricades are a provincial issue and not municipal. The Committee requested the minutes from the last meeting that this issue was discussed. *(see extract below)*

Extract from the minutes of the February 17, 2014 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting

6.1 Temporary Sign By-Law Amendments Consultation

Councillor Craig left the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

Mr. David Lane, Planning and Infrastructure, made a presentation to the Committee on By-Law S-801, the Temporary Sign By-Law amendments.

Mr. Lane informed the Committee that Regional Council gave direction to Planning and Infrastructure on December 10, 2013, to address a proliferation of temporary signs along streets and on private property and regulate temporary signage throughout HRM. This includes banner, mobile, planter box, and inflatable and sandwich board signs.

In addition to allowing signs for private businesses, it allows for community events. Signs are largely controlled through licencing. The proposed amendments include election signs; for Municipal and School Board Elections signs may be posted on September 1; and for Provincial and federal elections signs may be erected after the issuance of the writ. Community Event signs will have a sixty (60) day maximum. There will be allowances for temporary signs to advertise apartment vacancies.

Mr. Lane further explained the proposed amendments for Mobile and Box Signs. He noted that there would be clarification on the duration of display, harmonization of separation distance between signs. There will be a fee incentive for box signs rather than mobile signs. He informed the Committee that sandwich board signs will be a maximum of two feet wide by three feet tall and will be located in front of the business advertising.

Mr. Lane then spoke on the impact for sidewalk users. He stated that there would be a seven foot clear path preserved and will be enhanced by fewer obstructions. There would be improved sightlines and reduced physical obstructions. Sandwich board signs that are oversized will have a maximum three inch projection and be secured to the building wall.

Mr. Lane finished the presentation stating that there would be a ninety day period before the new By-Law takes effect, additional consultation with the sign industry and other stakeholders, and would allow for a transitional period.

The Chair thanked Mr. Lane for his presentation and the Committee then entered into discussion.

Mr. Clement expressed his concern for sawhorse type barricades that are sometimes used to indicate hazards, noting difficulties for visually impaired pedestrians using white canes to locate a saw horse. He noted that the concrete block is up on the sidewalk on Main Avenue and Titus Street. Mr. Chris Davis, Right of Way Services, responded that there should be a seven foot buffer so that the pedestrian zone is unobstructed. He indicated he would look into the barricade indicated by Mr. Clement.

Mr. Darren Young left the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

Mr. Clement noted concern with telephone poles having staples from posters, which are a hazard to pedestrians. Mr. Davis commented on the difficulty with enforcing posters, noting that there is no By-law for poster signs and it is considered freedom of expression.

A copy of the presentation is on file.