

**Pelham Senior's Advisory Committee Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 1:30 p.m. by Zoom conference.**

**Present:** Sharon Cook (President)  
Councillor Marianne Stewart  
Erin Stitt (Lookout Ridge)  
Elena Simone-Simonetti  
Gwen MacDougall (Library)  
Dave Nicholson  
Julie Cook (Senior Programmer)  
Brittany MacLean (Active Living Programmer)  
Kathy Haist (Administrative Assistant)

**Absent with Regrets:** Anna Oakes (Lookout Ridge)  
Ann Villalta  
Susan Buckingham

1. **Declaration of Quorum and call to Order-** 1:34pm by Sharon Cook

2. **Adoption of Agenda**

Moved by: Gwen MacDougall  
Seconded by: Dave Nicholson

3. **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature thereof**  
None.

4. **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Moved by: Dave Nicholson  
Seconded by: Gwen MacDougall

THAT the minutes for the February 18, 2021 Pelham Seniors Advisory Committee meeting be approved, as amended.  
CARRIED

5. **Correspondence**  
None

6. **Business Arising from Minutes:**

- TD Bank Closure- Update- Sharon confirmed with the manager that the TD Bank Fonthill branch is definitely closing, as well as other branches, such as Downtown Welland closure of RBC, CIBC as well as TD Banks. The reason for these closures is due to reduced inside traffic and more reliance on online banking and machines. The Committee feels strongly about advocating for seniors within the community who are losing essential services they require, as they are unable to access the digital machines or online banking. The Committee with the assistance of Councilor Marianne Stewart will be drafting a letter to bring to Council, looking for assistance on working with both regional and municipal governments, and the Niagara Age Friendly Committee to advocate for accessible and non-digital essential services for Seniors. PSAC is looking to Council and recommending they work alongside other municipalities and the Region to take this concern to Raymond Cho, Minister of Seniors and Accessibility of Ontario, as well as the MP and MPP, to advocate for the seniors in the community and their human rights.

**Motion:** PSAC requests Town of Pelham Council to work towards making it unlawful in Ontario to restrict accessibility to essential services to digital methods alone.

Moved by: Dave Nicholson

Seconded by Gwen MacDougall

CARRIED.

**Motion:** PSAC requests assistance of Town of Pelham Council with the following steps to ensure all citizens have the right to access all essential services by means other than digital, as a duty to accommodate their Human Rights. This includes taking action

THAT engages and send correspondence to other Municipalities, Regional Council, Niagara Age Friendly, Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee, Ministry of Seniors, the MP and MPP, seeking support, and

THAT requests a review as to whether the changes of digitalizing essential services are barring vulnerable populations from accessing these services, and

THAT advocates for Seniors and their human rights to access essential services, and have them accessible, and THAT brings this issue, along with the support of other municipalities and the Region, if supported, to the attention of Raymond Cho, Minister of Seniors and Accessibility of Ontario, advocating for change and awareness.

Moved by: Dave Nicholson

Seconded by: Gwen MacDougall

- Buddy Bench- Deferred during this stage of reopening.

#### **7. New Business:**

- Telephone Conference- Kevin Maidment- Injury Prevention- This presentation has been delayed until it can happen in person. As an alternative, the Committee would like to have information sent to the senior database with regards to tick awareness, with informative information from Niagara Regional Public Health.
- Credit Card Scam Alert- Sharon continues to update the Committee on current credit card scams to be aware and cautious of.
- Seniors Month - Brittany wanted to bring Senior's Month to the Committees attention, to begin thinking of ideas to recognize and celebrate the seniors of Pelham. The Committee would like to incorporate a designated garden or planter in the courtyard of the MCC, near the new shade structure. Sharon will contact the Chair of the Beautification Committee to share ideas and plans. In addition, Brittany will contact the Clerks Department to have June declared as Seniors month, and request to have the seniors flag raised, with a photo opportunity with council and PSAC members at the raising of the flag.
- Programs – Continuing with Art Your Service Virtual Programming? - Brittany reported on the number of members and the cost of the Art Your Service Program Membership, noticing a decrease in registration as the warmer weather approaches.



**Motion:** To cancel Art Your Service virtual program membership through the summer months, and discuss repurchasing in the Fall.

Moved by: Sharon Cook

Seconded by: Elena Simone-Simonetti

CARRIED.

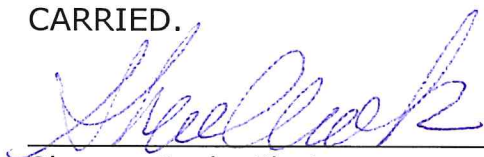
- AFN Report- Sharon reported back with information shared at the last Age Friendly Niagara meeting on March 26, 2021. The meeting shared information about the vaccine roll out for Niagara, and the behind the scenes organization and training. A Brock University Older Adult Study by Dr. Miya Narushima and Dr. Pauli Gardner was also discussed, looking for volunteers from each municipality to participate in focus groups. In this meeting, the importance of post COVID life and how it will affect seniors was also discussed.
  - PSAC wishes Julie Cook well in her retirement and thanked her for all that she has done for the Seniors of Pelham.
8. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 1:30pm by Zoom.

9. **Adjournment**

Moved by: Sharon Cook

THAT the meeting of the Pelham Seniors Advisory Committee meeting, April 15, 2021 adjourned at 2:00pm.

CARRIED.



Sharon Cook, Chair