



Staff Memo

Report To: South Huron Council
From: **Dan Best, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk**
Date: June 18 2018
Report: CAO 9-2018
Subject: Main Street Revitalization Update

Recommendations:

That the memo from Dan Best, Chief Administrative Officer dated June 11, 2018 regarding the Main Street Revitalization Initiative be received; and

That Council authorize the following projects to be approved as part of the Main Street Revitalization in Exeter as follows:

- Accessibility improvements for access to local businesses
- Streetscaping including banners and lighting
- Wayfinding signage

Purpose:

Approval

Background and Analysis:

Further to the CAO Report 14-2018, Staff met with the BIA Staff to review opportunities that may be considered for the Main Street Revitalization Grant Funding.

Based on the discussions, it was determined that the three key areas to be considered were the following:

- Accessibility improvements for access to local businesses
- Streetscaping including banners and lighting
- Wayfinding signage

For accessibility, Staff have initiated discussions with a the Stop Gap Foundation to explore the potential of implementing a community ramp project. From the literature, the Stop Gap Foundation outlines the program as follows:

“The Community Ramp Project has been successful at highlighting how a simple ramp can make life easier for everyone. Participants have shared that a ramped storefront is more inviting. Parents pushing strollers, couriers using carts to handle heavy packages and people using mobility aides all benefit from a barrier free storefront.

The project has also proved that business owners are able to increase their customer base by providing a storefront that everyone can enter and exit. Supporters of the initiative hope that through these types of projects communities will create barrier removing legislation of their own instead of waiting until the projected due date outlined in the AODA (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act) – that being 2025.

The temporary ramps are to be presented to businesses with a single step with the intent that business owners offer the use of the ramp to customers whenever there is a need. Municipal encroachment by-laws prevent temporary access ramps from living in front of a storefront on a regular basis therefore business owners are encouraged to display the “Access Ramp Available Upon Request” sign in a highly visible location in their storefront window such that customers can be easily informed about the availability of a ramp”.

The streetscaping aspect would be implemented to address the aged lighting that is currently on street poles and potentially look at the viability of seasonal lighting.

The wayfinding signage will be explored further based on the work already underway with the County of Huron and RT04.

Financial Impact:

There are no financial implications as a result of the actions outlined in this report.

Legal Impact:

There are no legal implications as a result of the actions outlined in this report as the elements of the agreement are the signing of a Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) and the commitment to follow the elements of the agreement.

Staffing Impact:

There are no staffing implications as a result of the actions outline din this report.

Policies/Legislation:

None

Consultation:

Director of Financial Services
BIA Staff

Related Documents:

None

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Best, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk