



ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE & PERSONNEL REPORT

To: Council

Meeting Date: January 14, 2025

Prepared by: Amy Harron
Deputy Clerk

Date Prepared: December 17, 2025

Subject: Grand River Accessibility Advisory Committee (GRAAC) Member Appointments 2025

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Township of Wellesley appoint the following member to the Grand River Accessibility Advisory Committee (GRAAC) for a 4-year term, or until a successor is appointed ending December 31, 2028:

- David Fish, Township of Wellesley

Summary:

Under the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA), all municipalities with a population of 10,000 or greater are required to establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee to advise Council on the prevention, identification, and removal of barriers for persons with disabilities. The Grand River Accessibility Advisory Committee (GRAAC) is a joint committee of the Cities of Kitchener and Waterloo, the Regional Municipality of Waterloo and the Townships of North Dumfries, Wellesley, Wilmot, and Woolwich. GRAAC is appointed the task of advising the participating municipalities on accessibility planning.

Report:

The GRAAC Terms of Reference specify that the Committee will consist of 11-15 members of which a majority must be persons with a disability. Recruitment was conducted in fall 2024, with a goal of appointing 6 new members to fill pending vacancies.

A selection committee of staff representing the participating municipalities reviewed the applications with the use of a scoring rubric, to evaluate applications based on the following criteria: experience, qualification, knowledge, diversity, time commitment acknowledgement and city of residency to make a recommendation for appointment. Consideration was also given, where possible, to try and achieve representation of members from all the participating municipalities. The members recommended for appointment will be forwarded to the City Clerk's office for their respective municipalities, which will then be forwarded to their Council's for consideration and appointment. Pending ratification by each of the participating

municipalities, including the appointments of 6 members, the committee will have a total of 15 members.

Following the conclusion of the appointments the entire list of appointed members will be forward to the Regional Clerk for the Region of Waterloo, to be shared with their members of Council.

Township Strategic Plan:

This initiative aligns with the Township of Wellesley's Healthy Communities and Environments Strategic goal and objective to maintain our community's healthy lifestyle and safe environment.

Financial Implications:

N/A

Other Department / Agency Comments:

N/A

Legal Considerations:

N/A

Attachment(s):

N/A

Approved By:

Rik Louwagie, CAO