

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
April 4, 2024

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, at 7:00 p.m., in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

- Councillor George El-Jakl, Chair
- Councillor Shaun Hatfield
- Denise Nickerson, Resident – NS Works and Southwest Employment Services Representative
- Loretta Nickerson, Resident – Shelburne Association Supporting Inclusion Rep.
- Warden Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson (Arrived at 7:15 p.m.)

- Mickayla Peters, Vice-Chair - Resident – Individuals and Organizations who Experience Disabilities Representative – Absent due to illness
- Student Position - Vacant

- Lesa Rossetti, Accessibility Co-ordinator
- Cameron Whiteway, Director of Public Works
- Chris Frotten, CAO

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Being duly moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Being duly moved and seconded that minutes of the last meeting held October 19, 2023, be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Discontinuation of Sidewalk in front of PetroCan Station, in Barrington Passage

An update was provided on connecting the sidewalk in front of the PetroCan Station in Barrington Passage. We are still waiting to receive written approval from the owner and tenant.

AAC Student Representative

It was reported that the student position on the committee remains vacant. Contact has been made with BMHS, but no interest has been forthcoming. It was suggested that the vacancy be posted on social media.

Shelburne County Helping Tree

Contact has been made with Nova Scotia Health in an attempt to have the Helping Tree updated. We have been advised that the community health boards have decided to promote 211 instead, as a hub resource.

It was agreed by members that a representative of 211 be invited to meet with members to provide information on the 211 service.

Audible Alerts and Lights at Crosswalks in Barrington Passage

The CAO informed members that he has been in conversation with representatives of the Department of Public Works regarding crosswalks in Barrington Passage. It is anticipated that some steps will be taken by the department in the near future to address some lighting concerns.

Sign Language Services

As a result of research carried out by Member Denise Nickerson it has been determined that sign language services can be accessed by contacting:

- Society of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Nova Scotians (www.sdhhs.org)
- Cindy Boutilier is the Interpreter Services Coordinator for Halifax and mainland NS

ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK COMMITTEE

Previously, it was suggested that a committee be formed to plan events in recognition of Access Awareness Week in 2024 – May 26th – June 1st. No interest was forthcoming.

It was agreed that a partnership be explored with NS Works and Southwest Employment Services.

2022-2025 ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Items to be addressed next

At the last meeting, members were asked to give some thought to action items listed in the Plan and to provide suggestions as to items to be addressed next. No suggestions were brought forward.

Accommodations

An information sheet was circulated to members regarding “Accommodations at Work”.

One of the top priorities listed in our Plan under “Employment” is to ensure all job advertisements indicate the Municipality is an equal opportunity employer and that applicants be encouraged to specify in their job application if special accommodations are required.

Wording has been prepared and provided to the CAO and other senior staff, to be included in job descriptions and job advertisements.

Plan Update due April 2025

Members were informed that our plan update is due April 2025.

UPDATE ON NEW PROJECTS

The CAO provided an update on the following projects:

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- Recreation Centre – Plans include up-to-date accessibility requirements.
- Community Health Centre - Plans include up-to-date accessibility requirements.
- Ramps at Administrative Centre - Funding has been received for the project, but staff have been unable to find a contractor to carry out the work.
- Chair lift for the Municipal Swimming Pool – Funding is included in draft budget and grants will be explored to help finance the cost.
- Various updates have been carried out at existing municipal facilities.
- 12 accessible picnic tables were built over the winter months. Every municipal park will now have at least one accessible picnic table.

NOVA SCOTIA'S DISABILITY RATE

Members were advised that the 2022 Canadian Survey on Disability, published by Statistics Canada, indicated that Nova Scotia's disability rate is 37.9%. This is up from 30% in 2017. Nova Scotia continues to have the highest rate of disability in the country.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

There were no agenda items brought forward.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held when there are sufficient agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting