

**ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE****December 9, 2021**

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

- Denise Nickerson, Resident - Representing Nova Scotia Works – Vice Chair
- Warden Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson
- Loretta Nickerson, Resident – Representing Shelburne Assoc. Supporting Inclusion
- Boyd Scott – Resident
  
- Chris Frotten, CAO
- Lesa Rossetti, Accessibility Co-ordinator

Absent were:

- Councillor George El-Jakl – Chair – Absent due to work commitment
- Councillor Shaun Hatfield – Absent due to work commitments
- Cameron Whiteway – Director of Property Services

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no additions to the agenda.

**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 the minutes of the last meeting held August 19, 2021, be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

**OPEN HOUSE – OCTOBER 20, 2021**

An Open House was held on October 20, 2021, to receive input from the public to assist with the development of our Accessibility Plan. Attached is a list of strengths and weaknesses identified at the Open House.

Items identified have been incorporated into the draft Accessibility Plan.

**ACCESSIBILITY SURVEY**

The Accessibility Survey was shared on social media and with all groups identified at our last

meeting. Members of the public had an opportunity to complete the survey during the months of September and October. At the end of October the results were compiled and forwarded to members for review. Eighty-nine people completed the survey.

Main areas of concern identified were access to beaches, trails, municipal pool, municipal buildings (doorways and door handles) and crosswalks.

#### RICK HANSEN CERTIFICATION

For information purposes, details were provided to members on the Rick Hansen Certification Program.

#### DRAFT ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

In advance to the meeting a draft Accessibility Plan was circulated to members for review and comment.

A few changes were suggested which will be incorporated into the Plan.

#### Resolution AAC211201

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that the Accessibility Plan be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### ASSESSMENT OF BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Assessment of the Built Environment was then discussed. In advance to the meeting each member was provided with a copy of the "Interim Accessibility Guidelines for Indoor and Outdoor Spaces" which includes checklists to be used when assessing the built environment to identify barriers. It was agreed that a list of municipal buildings, parks, infrastructure, etc. be prepared and circulated to members.

The committee will meet in January or February to discuss and decide how to proceed with the assessment.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary for the Meeting

## **SUGGESTIONS FROM OPEN HOUSE – October 20, 2021**

### **AREAS OF FOCUS**

#### **GOODS AND SERVICES**

##### **Strengths and Achievements**

- Sensory friendly hours at Sobeys

##### **Weaknesses and Barriers**

- Access to Beaches
- Accessibility in parking lots need more space for accurate measurements to open doors

#### **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS**

##### **Strengths and Achievements**

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##### **Weaknesses and Barriers**

- Accessibility Apps for literacy. “Listen to”.

#### **BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

##### **Strengths and Achievements**

- Accessible Entrances at Municipal Facilities
- Lever door handles in Administrative Centre (easier to open)

##### **Weaknesses and Barriers**

- Lever door handles could be installed in other municipal facilities

#### **TRANSPORTATION**

##### **Strengths and Achievements**

- Sou’West Transit a plus for the area

##### **Weaknesses and Barriers**

- More funding needed for all age groups to access transportation

## **EMPLOYMENT**

### **Strengths and Achievements**

- Wage Subsidy for hiring persons with disabilities
- Positives – Mayflower Place, SASI, NS Works
- Check out Reachability and Ready, Willing and Able

### **Weaknesses and Barriers**

- More Training workshops or sessions for persons with disabilities to attend and gain new skills.
- More awareness for employers and businesses about being inclusive and accepting.