

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**May 11, 2023**

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

- Mickayla Peters, Vice-Chair - Resident – Individuals and Organizations who Experience Disabilities Representative
- Councillor Shaun Hatfield
- Warden Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson
- Loretta Nickerson, Resident – Shelburne Association Supporting Inclusion Representative

- Councillor George El-Jakl, Chair - Absent due to work commitments.
- Denise Nickerson, Resident – NS Works and Southwest Employment Services Representative – Absent due to vacation.

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

ELECTION OF CHAIR

It was moved that Councillor George El-Jakl be nominated as Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Nominations were called 3 additional times and no further nominations were brought forward.

Being duly moved and seconded that Councillor George El-Jakl be appointed Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

It was moved that Mickayla Peters be nominated as Vice Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Mickayla Peters accepted the nomination.

Nominations were called 3 additional times and no further nominations were brought forward.

Being duly moved and seconded that Mickayla Peters be appointed Vice Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Peters took the Chair.

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 March 7, 2023, be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Discontinuation of Sidewalk in front of PetroCan Station

The CAO reported on a meeting which took place on site with representatives of the Provincial Department of Public Works. They acknowledged the wide opening, in front of the PetroCan Station, but also noted the large turning radius required for fuel delivery trucks. In other areas lines have been painted across the opening, similar to crosswalk lines. Department representatives agreed to discuss the situation with their Traffic Division and will report back with options.

It was agreed that this matter be placed on a few agenda for update.

PRESENTATION – LORETTA NICKERSON RE: SASI

Ms. Nickerson was asked to provide information to members on the roles and responsibilities of the organization she represents. A copy of her presentation is attached and forms part of the minutes.

PRESENTATION - MICKAYLA PETERS RE: INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO EXPERIENCE DISABILITIES

Ms. Peters was asked to provide information on individuals and organizations she represents. A copy of her presentation is attached and forms part of the minutes.

TERMS OF REFERENCE RE: YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

Members discussed the possibility of having a youth member serve on the Accessibility Advisory Committee. To serve as a voting member of the committee, the youth member would have to be a person with a disability(s) or represent an organization that represents people with disabilities, in accordance with the Act. It was agreed that this would be a two year appointment and it was suggested that a Grade 11 Student would fit best.

Proposed amendments to Policy 59 “Policy on Committees of Council” will be drafted.

ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK

Members were informed that Access Awareness Week will be held May 28th to June 3, 2023. A Flag has been purchased which will be flown on the community flagpole at the Kiack Brook. Members were invited to provide suggestions and ideas on events to be held acknowledging the week.

The CAO advised that one suggestion put forth by staff was to hold an official opening of the mobi mats and mobi chairs at the Stoney Island Beach. This suggestion will be further explored and expanded on by the CAO.

RESULTS OF ASSESSMENT OF THE NATURE TRAIL

A trail consultant and Dalhousie University have both carried out assessments of the nature trail. Both agree that we have a unique trail and one which encourages outdoor play in a natural environment.

The Sherose Island Nature Trail remains a top priority with the Recreation Department and Council. Steps are now being taken to explore increased and improved signage, to construct a rest/picnic area with a look-off and to develop small natural play areas.

Accessible picnic tables have been located close to the main roadway leading to the boat launch.

Future focus will be to develop a small section of trail that will be accessible allowing individuals to visit the look-off site.

RESULTS OF ASSESSMENTS OF REST STOPS/PICNIC AREAS

It was reported that assessments of the following rest stops/picnic areas have been carried out:

- Baccaro Lighthouse Picnic Park – Baccaro
- Strang's Lane Rest Stop/Picnic Area – Port Clyde
- Fort Creek Park – Port LaTour
- Barrington River Rest Stop/Picnic Area – Barrington
- Island View Park – Barrington Passage
- McGray's Avenue Gazebo and Boardwalk – North East Point
- Drinking Brook Park – Clam Point
- Stumpy Cove Park – Lr. Clarks Harbour
- Fish Plant Road Rest Stop/Picnic Area – The Hawk
- South Side Beach Picnic Site – Daniel's Head, South Side
- UFO Tourist Rest Stop/Picnic Area – Shag Harbour

A report of the findings was provided to members for their information. No site is fully accessible, but steps have been taken to make them as accessible as possible.

RESULTS OF ASSESSMENT OF THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Community Garden is located on Sherose Island and is known as "The Sunshine Garden". This project is supported by the Municipality, but is community lead. There are currently 23 garden beds in total and approximately 9 beds have been raised to make them more accessible. When assigning garden beds, abilities of the individual are considered as some beds are more accessible than others.

Future plans include having at least ½ of the beds raised this year and to have an accessible pathway leading to the garden.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that the following items be placed on a future agenda:

- PetroCan Station
- Youth Representative

NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee be held on June 22, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting



Shelburne Association Supporting Inclusion

The official name of the organization is “Shelburne Association Supporting Inclusion”; however, we like to refer to ourselves as SASI.

The non-profit society was incorporated in March 1985.

The first vocational site; “Sea Spray”, was opened in the Barrington Passage in March 1989. It has since moved to a new location and is now known as “Mayflower Place”. Commercial activities include a bakery, meals on wheels program, laundry services, and the youth pilot program.

“Heritage Hall”, was opened in the Shelburne area the following year, and has since moved and is now known as “SASI Works”. Commercial activities include laundry services, bakery, sub/sandwich contracts with local businesses, a take-out lunch time meal program and the youth pilot program.

The Lockeport Program, “Atlantic Waves” now known as “Beech Street Studio” opened in December 2004. Commercial activities include a textiles studio; quilting, weaving, rug hooking; take out lunch time meal program, retail and a small thrift shop.

At the present time, in vocational services, we assist approximately 48 participants with an employee complement of 13.

SASI encourages volunteers and students to assist with our programs and build on partnerships with other community organizations.

In September 2000, the Board of the organization agreed to undertake the establishment of residential services for persons with disabilities.

In the Town of Shelburne a Group Home was opened in January 2002. This is a nine-bed home (seven permanent beds and two respite beds).

In Barrington Passage a Developmental Residence was opened in May 2002. This is a six-bed home (5 permanent beds and one respite). Residents who live in the Developmental Residence require a higher level of support than the residents who live at the Group Home.

These homes are licensed under the “Home for Special Care Act” and must meet specific licensing requirements of the Department of Community Services and are inspected on an annual basis.

In November 2004, we received approval from the Department of Community Services to establish a supported apartment/independent living program. At the present time, we have seven

participants living in their own apartments, three in Shelburne and three in Barrington, with support given as needed by staff.

Within residential services, we support 19 residents and have a total of approximately 50 employees (includes full-time, part-time and casual).

The focus of the residential programs is to provide the level of individual support required in areas such as: activities of daily living, budgeting, community awareness, relationships, etc.

We have seven volunteers who serve on our Board of Directors. Regular meetings take place on a monthly basis, and the financial committee meetings also occur monthly. Our annual meeting takes place in spring/early summer each year.

Shelburne Association Supporting Inclusion is an active member in three provincial organizations/agencies. On the vocational side of things, we are a member of DirectioNS Council for Vocational Services Society. On the residential side, we are a member of the Nova Scotia Residential Agencies Association. We actively participate in the Shelburne County Mental Health and Wellness Association.

Our programs are as diverse as the individuals for whom we provide support. Individuals' challenges vary and may include an intellectual disability along with physical limitations, dual diagnosis of an intellectual disability and mental illness and/or individuals with a single diagnosis of long-term mental illness. In order to capture the unique skills of each of these individuals and to support them in acquiring new skills and increased self-worth we aim to make each of our programs as individual and unique as the person. We constantly seek out new ways of building on existing resources, building new relationships and finding alternative funding sources to further develop and enhance our programs.

We strongly encourage anyone who has an interest in finding out more about our programs to give us a call and/or visit any of our locations. Speak to those who live and work in our programs, ask questions and see what a difference programs such as SASI make in the community!

***“Working together with people of all abilities
to improve the quality of their lives.”***

Hello Everyone,

My name is Mickayla Peters, and I'm keen to improve accessibility in the community, network with like-minded individuals, and learn more about other ways I can help. While I am not diagnosed with a disability, I have extensive experience in representing individuals who experience disabilities, as well as organizations who represent people who experience disabilities.

My interest in improving the accessibility of this community stems from my experiences with my own family members, many of whose lives have been affected by inaccessibility when entering and exiting buildings [REDACTED], seeking safe and calm spaces [REDACTED], and verbally and physically navigating new or unfamiliar areas [REDACTED].

Throughout my university education I served as a Residence Assistant, where I was routinely responsible for supporting students living in my area with everything from personal crisis to navigating the city of Halifax. For a short time, I developed and hosted a local radio show in Halifax, focusing on seeking out and interviewing those whose lives had been impacted positively or negatively by mental health and wellness, and who were now using their experiences to further themselves, their education, or their businesses.

For the past four years I have worked for Bridgeway Academy, a day school for children with ADHD and Learning Disabilities, developing educational programs and strategies to fit students' and parents' needs, and teaching literacy and other remedial courses. When preparing children for their futures, accessibility becomes a fundamental right in order to achieve a more understanding, compassionate, accepting society. For this reason I consistently ensure my students and their families are aware of all possible paid and free-of-cost services, community programs, extracurricular activities, and academic programs available to them before making decisions, because if people are not educated on the possibilities and resources available to them, they are absolutely less likely to use them.