

Proposed amendments to Policy 59 “Policy on Committees of Council”

Section 1 - Definitions will be amended by adding the following:

- **Barrier** means anything that hinders or challenges the full and effective participation in society of persons with disabilities including a physical barrier, an architectural barrier, an information or communication barrier, an attitudinal barrier, a technological barrier, a policy or a practice;
- **Disability** includes a physical, mental intellectual, learning or sensory impairment, including an episodic disability; that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders an individual’s full and effective participation in society.

Section 4 - will be amended to list the Accessibility Advisory Committee as a Standing Committee of Council.

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Purpose

The Accessibility Advisory Committee provides advice to Council on identifying preventing and eliminating barriers to people with disabilities in municipal programs, services, initiatives and facilities. The Committee plays an important role in helping the Municipality of the District of Barrington become an accessible community and meet its obligations under the Nova Scotia Accessibility Act.

Mandate

The Accessibility Advisory Committee will, consistent with the purpose described above, undertake the following:

- 1) Advise Council on the preparation, implementation and effectiveness of its accessibility plan. In accordance with the Accessibility Act, the plan must include:
 - a) a report on measures the municipality has taken and intends to take to identify, remove and prevent barriers;
 - b) information on procedures the municipality has in place to assess the following for their impact on accessibility for people with disabilities:
 - any proposed policies, programs, practices and services
 - any proposed enactments or by-laws
 - c) any other prescribed information.
- 2) Review and update its accessibility plan at least every three years, in accordance with the act.

- 3) Consult with the community on accessibility in the municipality.
- 4) Advise council on the impact of municipal policies, programs and services on people with disabilities.
- 5) Review and monitor existing and proposed municipal by-laws to promote full participation of people with disabilities, in accordance with the act.
- 6) Identify and advise on the accessibility of existing and proposed municipal services and facilities.
- 7) Advise and make recommendations about strategies designed to achieve the objectives of the municipality's accessibility plan.
- 8) Receive and review information from council and its committees and make recommendations, as requested.
- 9) Assist in monitoring compliance with federal and provincial government directives and regulations.

Membership

The Committee shall consist of six (6) voting members:

- Three (3) Council members, one of which serving as Chair - one year term
- Three (3) people with disabilities or representatives of organizations that represent people with disabilities, in accordance with the act - two year term

Support Staff:

- Chief Administrative Officer
- Director of Property Services or designate
- Accessibility Coordinator

The Committee may, from time to time, consult with other agencies, municipal employees or organizations.

Council may, at any time, remove any member of the Committee by Council resolution and any member of the Committee may resign therefrom at any time upon sending written notice to the Chairperson of the Committee.

In the event of a vacancy during a regular term, the vacancy may be filled for the remainder of that term upon resolution of Council as soon as is convenient.

Meetings

The Committee shall meet at least four (4) times per year, or as needed to fulfill its duties. Meetings of the Accessibility Advisory Committee shall be open to the public. Quorum shall be determined by this Policy.

The committee may establish working groups to explore specific issues relates to the accessibility plan and/or to other responsibilities. A working group may include additional members from the community who are not Advisory Committee members. The Chair of a working group must be a member of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.