



TOWN OF KENTVILLE

KENTVILLE INCLUSION AND ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes: February 11, 2022

Town Hall, 354 Main Street, Kentville Nova Scotia

PRESENT (meeting held online)

Committee members:

- Yuning Pan
- Bernie Zinck
- Laurel Taylor
- Spencer Laing
- Gerald MacPherson
- Councillor Cathy Maxwell
- Deputy Mayor Cate Savage

Staff:

- Rachel Bedingfield, Director of Parks and Recreation
- Jennifer West, Recording Secretary
- Dan Troke, Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Kentville

Special Guest: Mark Selvidge (presenter) and Councillor Jennifer Ingham (observer)

REGRETS:

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Meeting is called to order at 9:34 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the Committee meeting of February 11, 2022 is approved by consensus.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes for the Committee meeting of January 14, 2022 are approved by consensus.

4. TOWN HALL UPDATE

- Directors and select staff are meeting regularly to talk about accessibility in Town Hall and in the town. This group is also talking about homelessness and food security. The next meeting will be a review of policies related to accessibility and inclusion.

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- Job ads are now including a statement of equality.
- There are a lot of infrastructure work taking place that will use a lens for accessibility.
- Around food security, which is not a municipal mandate, conversations are taking place to start to consider this in town.
- The town has grown and continues to grow, and the town needs to think ahead about our building, our work and our town.
- Kings County has recently released a Diversity and Inclusion plan, maybe staff there could give a presentation to our committee about this work.
- Kentville seems to be a leader in discussions around food security in the region.

5. ACHIEVEMENT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT DISCUSSION

- For days and months that recognize people (e.g. Black History Month, National Day for People with Disabilities), posting information about these on social media can be a lot of work.
- Can staff manage scheduling flags for every significant day? The Town has very few flag poles. We want to get to a place where we are ready to put up flags and posts.
- Can the town partner with the county to plan monthly proclamations?
- County staff did reach out to Kentville staff to collaborate and help inform their plan.
- There are conversations happening that would formalize work on diversity across the region. There are already intermunicipal service agreements for other services, and this would be a new relationship based on diversity.
- Can a group of people work on making a list of important dates and proclamations? There may be an opportunity for communications staff to be more strategic and coordinated.
- If the committee wants to have ceremonies or events, we can talk about planning it.
- Councillor Yorke is very skilled and thoughtful about sharing posts around diversity and inclusion.
- It may be possible for us to share media and resources on Facebook to share on social media.

6. TASK TEAM UPDATE

- Laurel reviews the members of the task team and the date of the first meeting.

7. UPDATE ON KENTVILLE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

- Spencer and Genevieve from KBC are meeting today to talk about this mapping website.

8. UPDATE ON SOCIAL VIDEO

- Bernie talks about the progress of the video.
- Congratulations on the script and on the video.

9. SPEAKER – MARK SELVIDGE

- See presentation on Kentville YouTube channel
- What makes some places accessible when you travel? Every store I went in wasn't crowded. Lots of room for wheelchairs and no bumps or lips at the entry. Ramps everywhere make it so much better. Other places were very crowded and there was no space to move around comfortably.
- Do you think there are one or two things that could be better for transportation in the valley? Booking with Kings Point to Point 24 hours in advance is not practical. Uber in the valley is an excellent option for people with different needs.
- What supports does the group Helping Hands need to have more people know about it? Mark is working with Para Nova Scotia to get this group working. He is collaborating with the group Smiles.
- Can we have more information about the fundraiser? This is a project to alter a Little Tykes car to be usable for kids with disabilities. Each unit will cost \$300 and he hopes to make many units to share with Ronald McDonald House and to donate.
- Each municipality has a recreation department, and Kentville's team has some adaptive equipment for folks with disabilities. The recreation directors have an accessibility committee who would be very interested in talking with Mark.
- Biking and walking are priorities for our towns, and want to learn more from Mark's experiences.
- Mark wants to create more opportunities for kids and adults to play and have fun-modifying skates, kites, boats and more.
- Is there something we can do to reduce stigma on the bus and in the community? The bus is where the Flowercart people go, and other low income people go. We rarely see business people and high income people on the bus.
- What makes you stay positive and stay motivated? Mark has a very supportive family, and a father who is able to modify things as a mill right. He has the mind set that there is just different ways to do things and get around. Life is too short to be lazy or bored.
- What is your favorite sport? Parasailing. But also rock climbing, sky diving, bungee jumping, swimming with sharks.
- Kim Stewart has the poster for the fundraiser.
- There are a lot of conversations around inclusion in China, especially during the Olympics.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.

Next meeting is on March 11, 2022 at 9:30am.