



**TOWN OF KENTVILLE
KENTVILLE INCLUSION AND ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes: March 8, 2024
Town Hall, 354 Main Street, Kentville Nova Scotia**

PRESENT

Committee members:

- Councillor Cathy Maxwell
- Councillor Gillian Yorke
- Gerald MacPherson
- Holly Rogers
- Mike Cameron
- Bernie Zinck
- Spencer Laing

Staff:

- Roxy Peterson
- Jennifer West

Guests:

Genevieve Allen-Hearn, Terri Lynn Almeda, Julie Glaser, Saheed Akande

Voting Members:

Holly Rogers, Mike Cameron, Spener Laing, Bernie Zinck

Regrets:

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER, LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Mike Cameron

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved

That the agenda be approved.

Motion Carried

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

(a) January 19, 2024

It was moved

That the Committee approve the January 19, 2023 meeting minutes.

4. TOWN HALL UPDATE (10 minutes)

(a) Sharepoint Website

Jennifer West gave an update on the public website and the Sharepoint website for committee members.

(b) Update on Welcoming and Diversity Task Team

Roxy Peterson gave an update on the task team which is in recruitment and selection phase. He shared that there are many different communities reflected in the applicants so far.

5. NEW BUSINESS

(a) Presentation of Strategic Priorities

Spencer Laing reviewed the 2020 Accessibility Plan and the discussions and workshop to create an updated accessibility plan. He described the workshop process which resulted in the five strategic priorities.

Discussion of Goals. Members suggested that each priority have a task team. It was explained that the committee should identify the first priorities that will be worked on, possibly with policy change and task teams. Real change needs to be established in policy.

Break!

(b) Provincial Directorate

Terri Lynn Almeda gave some feedback on the action plan. She found it straightforward, clean and understandable. The plan does need to be revised every three years. The plan does need to review past achievements. The plan also needs to include annual reporting.

(c) Municipal Accessibility Advisor

Julie Glaser shared some highlights on this draft report. She recommended participating in the monthly online municipal community of practice. This group has a goal of sharing knowledge and opportunities. A new platform will have resources for municipal accessibility leaders. Friday lunch and learns will launch soon and will be available to staff, committee, and the business community. Julie sees many accessibility improvements in the town and congratulates the town for its progress. The Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation tool will be launched soon to help with evaluation. Earl in New Glasgow has an effective sidewalk assessment tool.

Julie encouraged town staff to present to the community of practice and share the committee's experience. She also encouraged the committee to make a specific goal under goal 2 to solve the issue of removing the one step in entrances.

6. DISCUSSION: Priority Setting

What are the priorities of the committee:

- Solve the one step issue in collaboration with sidewalk replacement in the downtown.
- Improve bus stops and add more shelters
- Start education program (lunch and learns, contests, etc)
- Goal 5 participate in the community of practice.
- Sidewalk improvement and step up issue

- Education around diversity and being open to new cultures and different ways of doing things
- Plan to convert centre square into green space, in collaboration with private parking and accessibility parking
- Public washroom access in the downtown and in recreation
- Education and awareness for business community
- Ramps and step up issue in the downtown
- Public washroom access throughout town
- Research barriers to accessibility improvements downtown
- All seasons all stops campaign

7. NEXT MEETING

Spencer suggested that at the next meeting, we bring back a revised plan and review the top three priorities.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Mike Cameron moved for Adjournment

Next meetings:

May 10, 2024

July 12, 2024