

**TOWN OF KENTVILLE**

**KENTVILLE INCLUSION AND ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes: September 9, 2022

**Town Hall, 354 Main Street, Kentville Nova Scotia**

# PRESENT

**Committee members:**

* Gerald MacPherson
* Councillor Cathy Maxwell
* Yuning Pan
* Laurel Taylor
* Bernie Zinck
* Deputy Mayor Cate Savage (online)
* Mike Cameron

**Staff:**

* Jennifer West
* Rachel Bedingfield

**REGRETS**: Spencer Laing

# APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Meeting is called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Acting Chair Rachel Bedingfield.

# APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**The agenda for the Committee meeting of September 9, 2022 is approved by consensus.**

# APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

**The minutes for the Committee meeting of July 8, 2022 are approved by consensus.**

1. **TOWN HALL UPDATE**
   * + The group discussed meeting time for this committee. Keeping the first Friday of the month at 9:30 is best.
     + Letter from the province: The Chair read the letter. Concerns about this letter include the width of the sidewalk. Could we ask for bollards between the road and the bike lane? This would help keep cars away from someone stepping off the sidewalk. Is there a pedestrian bridge that could be built next to this bridge? Is a white contrast strip needed on the edge of the sidewalk? Response: timeline for a lighting study, and what are the options for solving these issues? Bollards or a separate bridge? Research bridges that are awesome. People with strollers on the bridge, others are stepping off into traffic.
     + ACTION: Jennifer to research this and write a draft letter.
     + Street Naming Policy: Cate had concerns about not having 50% support for a street name. The Committee recommends that we keep the 50% requirement from the policy because this is a barrier to equity seeking groups, and it is an example of systemic racism. How to move this forward?
     + That the Accessibility Committee reject the requirement of 50%+1 support for naming and renaming of municipal assets, because it is a barrier to equity seeking groups and is example of systemic racism. And further, that the existing policy contains processes which prevent frivolous and inappropriate requests from coming forward, and further that the purpose of the naming task team (serving the accessibility committee) is to review all name requests.
     + Gerald Moves this motion, and Laurel seconds this motion.
     + The committee voted by secret ballot.
     + Motion carried unanimously.
     + ACTION: This motion will be passed to Council for the September 26 Council meeting.
     + Town Hall accessibility audit: Staff are developing a timeline for completing this audit.
     + ACTION: Jennifer will invite Kirsten Duncan to present to the committee about this audit.
     + Recreation for All Policy: Staff are working on this policy and engagement around this policy.
     + Evaluation: Rachel is participating in a provincial working group which will help to develop an evaluation process for the accessibility plan. How to evaluate a cultural shift?
     + ACTION: Rachel will bring a short presentation about evaluation.
     + Kentville Business Community: Staff met with KBC to talk about accessibility in The Town to talk about the barriers in the business community.
     + AT Update: The multi use trail work has been tendered and awarded and work will begin on this new sidewalk in the coming weeks. There will be more consultation on the 2023 construction activity.
     + Provincial photography campaign
     + Accessible Prom event
     + Discussion about “where improvements can be made” in the community. Once we know something that needs to be changed, we should act to change it. All these little changes can result in a long term culture change.
2. **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**
   * + Spencer has stepped down as chair of the committee.
     + Gerald nominates Laurel. There were no other nominations.
     + Laurel nominates Gerald as Vice Chair. There were no other nominations.
     + The accessibility committee welcomes Laurel Taylor as the new chair and Gerald MacPherson as the new Vice Chair.
     + ACTION: Jennifer will post advertisements for committee members
     + Gerald attended an engagement meeting in Centre Square. The committee discussed development of Centre Square and “safe communities”. Using the space all the time gradually establishes that space as a family community space.
     + ACTION: Direct residents to [accessibility@kentville.ca](mailto:accessibility@kentville.ca)
     + Discussion about accessibility issues all around town.
3. **DISCUSSION**
   * + Would like to have a deep discussion about the accessibility plan at the next meeting.
     + Discussion about KBC representation on this committee.
     + ACTION: Jennifer to invite KBC members to join the committee through Genevieve
     + Discussion about town hall meetings twice a year.
     + Could possibly have a video highlights for committee updates.
     + ACTION: Jennifer and Rachel to talk about public meetings for accessibility
4. **NEXT MEETING (DATES AND AGENDA)**

Next meeting:

* + - Presentation, Rachel on plan evaluation
    - Presentation, Kirsten Duncan to come talk about Universal Design and Rick Hansen

# ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:30am.

Moving committee frequency to every two months.

Next meeting, October 7, 9:30am

December 2, 2022

February 3, 2022

April 7, 2022

June 2, 2022

August 4, 2022