

**TOWN OF KENTVILLE**

**KENTVILLE INCLUSION AND ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes: January 6, 2023

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

# PRESENT

**Committee members:**

* Councillor Cathy Maxwell
* Councillor Gillian Yorke
* Gerald MacPherson
* Laurel Taylor
* Bernie Zinck
* Yuning Pan
* Holly Rogers

**Staff:**

* Jennifer West
* Rachel Bedingfield
* Lindsay Young
* Bekah Craik

**REGRETS**: Mike Cameron, Dan Troke

# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Meeting is called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair Laurel Taylor.

# APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**The agenda for the Committee meeting of January 6, 2023 were approved by consensus.**

# APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

**The minutes for the Committee meeting of December 2, 2022 were approved by consensus.**

1. **TOWN HALL UPDATE**
2. Town Hall Update

Staff are completing energy and accessibility audits for the town hall building

1. Response to Province re: Kentville Bridge

ACTION: Push back on the width of the sidewalks, send a letter from the CAO to the directorate. Timeline for lights.

The committee proposes the idea of a pedestrian bridge

1. Street Naming and Renaming Policy: Update and Naming Committee

ACTION: That a Naming Committee be created, that members be sought from the community, seeking five people, with two from the KIAAC including Gerald and Cathy. This should be brought back to the committee.

The town communications team will develop tactics to have positive conversation around this name change, and will try to reduce harm to the community. There may be ways to turn commenting off, or have all comments be approved.

Staff will explore funding opportunities to offset the costs of the name change for businesses and residents.

1. Recreation Programming: Para Multi Sport, ELP

Sport Nova Scotia has a loan program for adaptive equipment across the province. Recreation Nova Scotia also has an equipment loan program. The Para Multi Sport program includes things like tandem bikes and adult trikes.

1. Anti-Racism Action Plan

Staff are creating an action planning template for programming, training and education to reduce or eliminate racism.

1. Capturing Information

Staff are determining a process for capturing information, in addition to minutes, that will support the evaluation of the accessibility plan.

1. **MEETING FOCUS: TRANSPORTATION**
2. Accessibility Lens

Review of the accessibility plan, using an evaluation tool and the Pathways for Accessibility document. The term “accessibility lens” should be clearly defined: the ability to see barriers at a conscious level (“you can’t unsee it”); how we approach change by having different perspectives (disabled, blindness, hearing impaired, intellectual, and also welcomeness); the application of a different lens/perspective, the conscious identification and removal of barriers; giving everyone the same opportunity to access everything; identifying the social determinants of health.

ACTION: Staff will create a definition for “accessibility lens”

1. Parking

Staff are reviewing parking space practices and policies in the town and will develop better practices and policies for granting accessible spaces, and enforcement of accessibility parking. For example, cash in lieu of parking causes increased strain on the public parking system, and also parking and charging for electric vehicles but also for scooters and ebikes.

1. Sidewalks

Staff will pull together an assessment tool for sidewalks to identify the highest need sidewalk replacements. Staff are also looking at standards that favor able bodied people and closing entire sections of sidewalks, possibly escorts. This process should also consider areas with no sidewalks which need to be extended.

1. Public Transportation

Municipal partners are an acting board of directors for Kings Transit, and this organization is under assessment for different transit systems, routes, payment, microtransit, shuttle and other options. There is an option to strike a committee to investigate transportation in Kentville. Is it cheaper to help someone pick up their groceries compared to a $2,000,000 electric shuttle bus?

MOTION: That KIAAC strike a subcommittee for transportation discussions in Kentville.

Moved by Laurel Taylor and Gillian Yorke

Approved by consensus

Lindsay, Gillian and Bernie are interested in sitting on this committee.

1. Active Transportation

Bekah Craik shared her strategy to meet all deliverables in the Active Transportation Plan, in addition to aspects of accessibility. Each year tackles a number of outcomes. The next two years will be focused on sidewalks in the downtown including audio signals, tactile transitions, and other features. Decisions are being made based on lived experience, for example with feedback from Holly Rogers. Accessibility is often thought of as what is needed and not what is wanted. We need to make some accessibility fun, not just functional. Bicycle Nova Scotia has a project called Hubs, which partners with municipalities to offer free services relating to cycling routes. They could do community engagement and determine the best services needed.

1. Transportation System Navigation

Staff are exploring different ways to navigate the town, using apps and other technology. These will be brought back to this committee. Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) has a lot of tools and devices.

Public washrooms in the downtown are still in progress and is still high priority.

1. **CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESSES**

We should capture and celebrate the achievements of this committee and this plan in a public event. An event would help give even more momentum to future initiatives.

ACTION: Consider ways to celebrate accessibility successes.

The next meeting will focus on awareness and education. A celebration event should also be on this agenda (bridge lighting, Cornwallis renaming, cake, hotdogs). A photo should be taken of the committee.

Next meetings:

* + - February 3, March 10, April 14.

# ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:54am