



**TOWN OF KENTVILLE
KENTVILLE INCLUSION AND ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes: March 11, 2022
Town Hall, 354 Main Street, Kentville Nova Scotia

PRESENT

Committee members:

- Yuning Pan (online)
- Bernie Zinck
- Laurel Taylor
- Spencer Laing
- Councillor Cathy Maxwell
- Deputy Mayor Cate Savage

Staff:

- Jennifer West, Recording Secretary

REGRETS:

Rachel Bedingfield, Gerald MacPherson, Dan Troke

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Meeting is called to order at 9:31 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the Committee meeting of March 11, 2022 is approved by consensus.
Removed numbers 7 and 8 from the agenda (Professional Development Update, and Update on Calendar), possibly moved to next month.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes for the Committee meeting of February 12, 2022 are approved by consensus.

4. TOWN HALL UPDATE

- Professional development for staff is being offered with moderate success.

- Staff are thinking about the renovation of the Town Hall building to be fully accessible.
- Staff are working on a major grant proposal which would fund a consultant to lead public engagement and assessment of the building to become fully accessible.
- Discussion about Kentville Business Community comfort station being built in Centre Square.

5. TASK TEAM UPDATE

- Met on February 18th to discuss the terms of reference, mandate and next steps.

6. UPDATE ON KBC

- Spencer met last month with the Executive Director of the Kentville Business Community (KBC).
- ACTION- share accessibility minutes online and with KBC.
- Discussion about helping businesses reach the 2030 goals.
- Suggestion for the committee to host an accessibility workshop for businesses, maybe an open air meeting in the summer.
- Need to wait for the province to provide clearer definitions and mandates for businesses.

It was moved by Spencer Laing and seconded Cathy Maxwell

That the committee add one member from the Kentville Business Community as a voting member

And further that this new member also has a disability, or has experience with a disability, or has a connection to the disability community.

MOTION CARRIED

7. GRANT PROPOSAL

- As discussed earlier in the meeting.

8. REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- Review of the accessibility plan priority list, page 88 of the Accessibility Plan
- ACTION – Committee to pen a letter to the province about the lack of accessibility on the new bridge in Kentville.
- ACTION – ensure that job postings are shared with Community Inclusion, People Worx, and VANSDA.
- ACTION – Accessibility parking should be marked more clearly and should not have snow piled in them.
- ACTION – Invite Director Gentleman to come to speak about universal design already being used in the Town, and how accessibility plan recommendations might be integrated into the Land Use Bylaw or Municipal Planning Strategy.

Accessibility Committee – March 11, 2022

Approved, April 8, 2022

Page 2

- ACTION – Ask if Rachel can bring the Recreation for All Policy to Council to be approved
- Discussion about buses in Kentville, especially when gas prices are so high.
- ACTION – Can we put bus schedules at the bus stops in town (with QR codes), beneath each bus stop sign?
- Having a pass system for the buses would be helpful. Having places that sell tickets (and provide change) would be helpful, especially in Town Hall.
- Kings Transit needs to match up better with Maritime Bus.
- The current Bus Shelter in Kentville is not accessible for individuals in a wheelchair due to it's location so close to the street

9. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- If there isn't a consistent length of time for meetings, how do we engage the public? Opening the last time to the public may not always be appropriate.
- How can we encourage engagement? Can we put out notes/posts that people can send in comments to the committee? Can the committee have a highlights cartoon after each meeting?
- Can we have a mailbag time that is recorded and posted later?
- Live meetings might be difficult to maintain and to have comfortable casual conversations.
- Can residents make appointments to join us for all or part of a meeting?
- Live streaming meetings is a lot of pressure on members, who are all learning together. Come to our meeting, tell us what your story is or what your concern is. We want to hear from you, come when we are meeting.
- Committee meetings should be open to the public, and should also be able to participate online.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 am.

Next meeting is on April 8, 2022 at 9:30am.