



TOWN OF KENTVILLE
KENTVILLE INCLUSION AND ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes: January 19, 2024
Town Hall, 354 Main Street, Kentville Nova Scotia

PRESENT

Committee members:

- Councillor Cathy Maxwell
- Councillor Gillian Yorke
- Mike Cameron (chair)
- Spencer Laing
- Holly Rogers
- Bernie Zinck

Staff:

- Jennifer West
- Lindsay Young
- Roxy Peterson

Voting Members:

Holly Rogers, Mike Cameron, Spener Laing, Bernie Zinck

Guests: Paula Huntley

REGRETS: Bekah Craik, Gerald MacPherson

1. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Spencer Laing gave a land acknowledgement, and introduced a Mi'kmaq word Na'gu'set, sun

Meeting is called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairperson Mike Cameron.

2. REVIEW OF AGENDA

Addition: New Business 5.b flag flying policy

It was moved

That the committee approve the agenda of the January 18, 2024 meeting

Approved by Consensus

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Voting member, add Bernie Zinck

Discussion of the Parking Lot of concerns/complaints spreadsheet

- Concerns about spending too much time on these issues during each meeting
- Suggestion of adding a time limit for these issues at each meeting
- Concerns about accountability of tasks

It was moved by Gillian Yorke and Holly Rogers

That the committee approve the minutes of December 8, 2023 Committee meeting

Approved by Consensus

4. TOWN HALL UPDATE

Jennifer West gave an update on the committee website, where all documents from committee meetings will be uploaded for review.

- (a) Jennifer West and Mike Cameron gave a review of the Sharepoint website for the committee, for sharing documents, resources, minutes and other files.
- (b) Jennifer West shared that the town hall building accessibility audit was received by the consultant and identified all the issues that we anticipated and offered some next steps to consider.
 - Good discussion at Council about this audit.
 - Alarming the degree of inaccessibility in the building.
 - It is a good starting point.
 - Council and staff are gathering their “must haves” for the building.
 - Benchmark of February CAC meeting for Council to discuss again.
- (c) Mike Cameron shared that the January 9 Reconciliation and Street Renaming ceremony went very well with more than 150 people attending the fire, smudge, walk, prayer and social event. Mike read gratitude letters to and from Indigenous leaders. Discussion about the value of these events in reconciliation.
- (d) Jennifer West explained the development of the terms of reference for the committee, and members discussed changes to this document. Reminder for staff that Gerald is not a voting member, and to advertise for an additional member.
- (e) Roxy Peterson presented his ideas about forming a Diversity and Belonging Task Team for the town. The Task Team Terms of Reference was reviewed by the committee. The new task team outline was reviewed by the committee. Roxy Peterson and Tracy Clements will be the leads for this group. Discussion of the purpose and time limited goals of this task team.
 - One year ad hoc committee

- Goal 1, To explore if the TOK BIPOC residents/partners feel adequately represented by the TOK Council, services, programs, policies and events (first six months)
- Goal 2, The review of the anti racism policy using the information from the first goal (second six months)

It was moved by Spencer Laing and Gillian Yorke

That the Committee approve the creation of a Task Team

Diversity and Belonging Task Team adopt the draft term of reference for this group.

Motion Carried

Task: Roxy will bring back a new version of the Terms of Reference. Spencer and Gerald are included in this task team.

- (f) Lindsay Young, Community and Economic Development Coordinator, gave an outline of some of the discussion on social media about accessibility in the downtown area. She explained the tools and processes that influence the physical structure of a private business.
- Discussions have been held at the Kentville Business Community board meeting account accessibility. It is a complex process to accessibilize the downtown with many barriers (landlord awareness, landlord willingness, landlord financing, change of use, change of structure, accessibility grants from KBC, ...)
 - Discussion of lunch and learns for business community to help improve awareness
 - Discussion of advocating for increased funding for business owners
 - Discussion of grant writing support for the provincial accessibility grant
 - Holly and Spencer offered to help Lindsay with some lunch and learns.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- (a) Priority Setting – upcoming workshop
- Review of workshop, February 23, 2024.

(b) Flag flying policy

Cathy Maxwell reviewed the existing town policy on town-owned flag poles. She recommends changing the policy to be more inclusive to, for example, African Nova Scotian month, Pride month, etc. The policy must have a list of specific list of recommended flags, and specific parameters for raising and lowering.

- Members suggested using an inclusion lens, focusing just on groups protected in human rights laws.
- Suggestion that staff review HRM and MOK flag flying policies.
- Staff will add these policies to Sharepoint

- It was suggested that the committee think about this but may consider giving issue to the future standing committee for Diversity and Belonging

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, that the meeting adjourn at 11:45am

Next meeting, February 23, 2024 at 9:30am in council chambers