



**TOWN OF KENTVILLE  
KENTVILLE INCLUSION AND ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Meeting Minutes: May 10, 2024  
Town Hall, 354 Main Street, Kentville Nova Scotia**

**PRESENT**

**Committee members:**

- Councillor Cathy Maxwell
- Councillor Gillian Yorke
- Holly Rogers
- Mike Cameron
- Bernie Zinck
- Saheed Akande

**Staff:**

- Roxy Peterson
- Jennifer West

**Voting Members:**

Holly Rogers, Mike Cameron, Spener Laing, Bernie Zinck, Saheed Akande

**Regrets:**

Spencer Laing, Gerald MacPherson

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER, LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The meeting was called to order at 9:36 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) March 25, 2024**

It was moved

That the Committee approve the March 25, 2024 meeting minutes.

Motion Carried

**4. TOWN HALL UPDATE (10 minutes)**

**(a) Town Hall Update**

Jennifer West gave an update on meetings with the Municipality of Kings, Kints Transit, incorporating accessibility into the operating budget, and update of the draft Inclusion and Access Plan. The annual survey should try to include accessibility in all sections and not just make it a single section.

**(b) Update on Welcoming and Diversity Task Team**

Roxy Peterson gave an update on the task team. The first meeting of this group is planned for May 15<sup>th</sup> in the evening and will include a meal. Spencer Laing will facilitate the first meeting at least. The group consists of 11 members from a wide range of communities, including Spencer and Gerald from this committee.

**(c) Oakdene Park Community Garden**

Roxy Peterson is launching a revitalization of the Oakdene Park gardens on May 18<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 4pm. The first event will involve raising existing beds to a more accessible height. Partners include NSCC, VCLA, Kentville Rotary and others.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**(a) Evaluation Sections, in Draft Accessibility Plan**

Jennifer West presented the evaluation criteria and asked for feedback. Members asked about starting task teams for some of these issues.

**(b) Priority Setting**

Mike Cameron outlined that at the last meeting, the group talked about the top priorities for this committee: lunch and learns, community of practice and sidewalks. Suggestion to include public transit as an authority, since staff is already working on it.

**Lunch and learns:** Promote what is already happening and also provide lunch and learns on Kentville-specific issues. The first lunch and learn was about available grants for the business community. The event was very well received and provided added conversation among participants. The Canadian National Institute for the Blind will be hosting an event in New Minas on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Suggestion that staff reach out to Easter Seals, CNIB and other groups for feedback on the accessibility plan. Also Autism Nova Scotia, Multiple Sclerosis Society, L'Arche, New Vision Special Care Homes, Kings Senior Safety, Valley Community Learning Association, and others. Is there an ALS society? Holly will reach out to find a contact.

**(c) Establishment of Task Teams**

Mike Cameron reviewed the task team model, for example sidewalks.

Mike Cameron has invited other accessibility committees in the region to join the July Kentville committee meeting. This will be a time to share information between committees. Gillian Yorke sits on the Diversity Kings committee, and shared that it may need some new ideas and initiatives. June Grainger and Lexi Misner-Burgess are the chairs of that committee and could be invited to the July joint committee meeting.

Members discussed incorporating relationship building from other organizations. This could be internal presentations but also community lunch and learns. Roxy will work on incorporating this into the Goal 5 priority in the draft plan.

Awareness of human rights associated with disabilities, need more education and awareness. For example guide dogs in businesses.

## **6. NEXT MEETING**

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Mike Cameron moved for Adjournment

Next meetings:

July 12, 2024

September 13, 2024