

**Accessibility Committee Meeting
June 15, 2021
Various Locations Via Zoom**

Present

Mayor L. Boucher
Councillor M. Farrell
Councillor D. MacInnis
G. Kell
G. Mattie

S. Scannell, Community Development
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

Also Present

R. Crouse, Delegate

Absent with Regret

A. Dunphy, EDPC
K. Stewart

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM.

Approval of Agenda

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Agenda as presented.” Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes of the Accessibility Committee meeting of April 16, 2021, as amended.” Motion carried.

Presentation – R. Crouse Re: Accessibility Antigonish

The Chair introduced R. Crouse and invited him to make his presentation.

R. Crouse provided background as to how discussion came about to form a partnership with the Town to improve accessibility. He stated that since the installation of the Sandlot many families have come forward to see what else could be done to improve accessibility related to recreation. He further noted that other sports-related organizations joined the discussion and a list of simple to extensive projects was created. R. Crouse noted the project list does not have a timeline but rather is intended to be done as time and funds permit.

The Committee was advised that there are many organizations willing to provide input and assistance.

S. Scannell noted they are trying to create a partnership in a cyclical plan for accessibility priorities in public play areas. He referred to a list of proposed projects and noted the intent would be to review and choose projects for the year, and then fundraise for the projects, with (Town) budget considerations in mind. He noted that having the ‘first voice’ heard assists in choosing which items should be worked towards.

S. Scannell advised that 'Canada Helps' would be integrated into the projects, which would automatically trigger tax receipts and accept donations on behalf of the Town for specific fundraising projects.

R. Crouse noted that the list was a 'brainstorming' list, is not final, and is subject to change.

The Chair commended R. Crouse for bringing this forward to the Town and community. Members of the Committee along with Mayor L. Boucher provided comment on the proposal.

S. Scannell noted that there has been a project (re-surfacing the pathway down to the field), for which costs have been included in the upcoming budget.

"It was Moved and Seconded to recommend to Council to support a mutually beneficial fundraising collaboration with Accessible Antigonish (to a maximum of 50%) with the goal of improving accessibility as it relates to recreation with the Town, and to include the re-surfacing of the pathway to the Sandlot during the upcoming budget year." Motion carried.

Accessibility Plan Update (S. Scannell)

S. Scannell note stakeholder interviews have been held to seek direction prior the 'what we heard' report from the consultants. It was noted some delays have been associated with the lockdown, including with those participating as well as some follow ups being carried out.

Brief discussion ensued on the timeline of the completion of the Report (was end of June -mid-July) but has now been pushed back. S. Scannell indicated he would seek to get a better idea of the timeline from the consultants.

The Chair advised he had met with the R. Delorey, the Minister responsible for Accessibility and noted he stated his pleasure with the direction the Committee is going.

The Chair noted that the Committee would be advised of when the next meeting will be held.

At 2:26 PM the meeting was adjourned.