

**Accessibility Committee Meeting
February 24, 2022
Via Zoom**

Present

Chair, Councillor D. MacInnis
Councillor M. Farrell
G. Kell
G. Mattie
K. Stewart

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

R. Crouse, Guest

Absent with Regret

Mayor L. Boucher

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:31 PM.

Approval of Minutes

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes as presented." Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda

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

Correspondence; R. Crouse

S. Scannell welcomed R. Crouse and noted this is the second request coming through a partnership with Accessible Antigonish. S. Scannell noted they are waiting for the final design for the ramp to the Sandlot.

R. Crouse provided details on having wheelchair accessible picnic tables and benches and noted there are many material options available. The Committee was advised that fundraising for the project is ongoing and that the picnic tables/benches would be seen throughout the community.

The Committee was supportive of the project.

Brief discussion took place on trying to secure picnic tables/benches locally.

"It was Moved and Seconded to identify accessible picnic tables/benches as an accessible project for consideration during the upcoming budget deliberation as an inclusive enhancement to the Town's recreation facilities." Motion carried.

Brief discussion took place on the timing of having the ramp and picnic tables/benches.

R. Crouse provided details on requests to host several events over the next couple of years.

R. Crouse agreed to reach out to the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL) to determine if they can construct the picnic tables/benches.

S. Scannell spoke briefly to trying to standardize the design of planter boxes, picnic tables, benches, etc. throughout the town.

K. Stewart questioned whether, for inclusion, consideration could be given to providing a bench/picnic table at the skatepark, and it was noted that the intent would be to have the benches/picnic tables located at all recreation facilities such as the skatepark.

The Chair thanked R. Crouse for his attendance.

Draft Accessibility Plan Review

The Chair noted the document is Draft Accessibility Plan contains over 100 pages, and that an additional meeting would likely be required to complete a review of the document.

S. Scannell screenshared the Draft Accessible Plan with the Committee. He noted there were two documents - the draft plan and the summary (policies and actions).

S. Scannell suggested he would provide a quick summary of where we are at and recommendations on policies and actions that can be taken in the near future.

S. Scannell began a review of the Draft Plan.

He noted the engagement summary report was distributed and included comments from as many people as possible to identify accessible issues in the community and that it identifies those who were involved.

He noted the Draft Plan was sent to the Accessibility Directorate and that they had no concern with the content of the Plan. Also, a group at St. FX has shared work they are doing and it appears there is a lot of continuity in concerns that have been raised through their work.

The Committee was advised that there is someone local who can assist with direction as the Committee moves forward with the Draft Plan.

The Committee provided comment and amendments were recommended and made to the document as the following sections were reviewed:

- Awareness & Education
- Goods & Services

It was generally agreed that a meeting of the Accessible Advisory Committee would be scheduled for next Tuesday, March 1st from 2:30-4:30 at Town Hall.

S. Scannell agreed to distribute a summary of the sections reviewed today.

At 4:04 PM the meeting was adjourned.