

**Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes
December 7, 2017
Town Council Chambers**

Present

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

Absent with Regret

K. MacDonald

Also Present

S. Scannell, Special Projects Coordinator
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order

Councillor D. MacInnis called the meeting to order at 12:12 PM.

Approval of Agenda

"It was Moved and Seconded that the Agenda be approved with additions." Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes of the meeting held October 13, 2017."
Motion carried

- **Approval of Draft Terms of Reference (Plain Language)**

At the request of the Chair, D. McCallum noted changes made to the Terms of Reference, noting the changes were obvious. G. Mattie noted the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) will be coming up with their own Terms of Reference, and expanded on the details. It was noted that that it may not be mandatory to accept their Terms of Reference, and in addition, that the Town could forward theirs (once approved by Council) to the UNSM as it might help guide their Terms of Reference. G. Mattie indicated he could check with L. Goldberg on the matter. It was generally agreed to have G. Mattie pass the Terms along to the Executive Director of the UNSM.

"It was Moved and Seconded that Town Council to accept the Terms of Reference (in plain language) for the Town of Antigonish." Motion carried.

Business from Minutes

- **Ramp Funding**

D. Wilson reported on behalf of CAO J. Lawrence that the any unused Capital funding allotted to Accessibility projects for this year will be moved to the capital reserves.

- **Funding for Small Businesses**

D. Wilson reported on behalf of S. Day and circulated information he had received from the Department of Heritage on a new funding program now open – ACCESS-Ability Program.

Councillor G. Mattie reported on an initiative by one of the First Nations who are utilizing used tires for an accessibility project.

Councillor G. Mattie further spoke to information (distributed) regarding digital technologies and an accessible technology program and expanded on the details. Brief discussion took place on some of the new technology already available. D. MacCallum noted she would look further into the details.

- Update on Funding

The Chair noted that no further news is expected on funding until January or February.

Brief discussion took place regarding the design for the accessible ramp and whether a firm decision had been made on the final design.

- Next Steps

Chair, Councillor D. MacInnis noted it would be useful to identify areas/things that can be improved upon.

G. Kell noted that some of the sidewalk lips are too high. He stated he would like every lip levelled down within two (2) years, along with some street grades. Brief discussion ensued. Concern was raised on accessing Main Street from the RK MacDonald Guest Home. St. Mary's Street was also identified as a concern area.

Discussion took place on a date for the next meeting, with D. Wilson noting she had found out that MLA R. Delorey is in Antigonish on Mondays and Fridays. It was generally agreed that in an effort to the MLA at the next meeting that a meeting be scheduled for Monday February 5th, at a time to be determined.

D. McCallum questioned what the protocol would be to roam around the town looking for accessibility issues. She suggested making a pitch to Town Council, for example, to look through an accessibility lense when any new project, tender, etc. is considered. She further noted she had heard no news of the new Farmers' Market being accessible. Discussion ensued. It was noted the Town has begun to look through an accessibility lense and the need to identify our own accessible deficiencies and start to work on them. It was further noted that those working on the new Farmers' Market have given some consideration to accessibility.

D. McCallum noted it would be great if the grades and lips at least along the Main Street could see improvements.

At 12:48 PM D. McCallum left due to a prior commitment.

"at 12: 49 PM it was Moved and Seconded to adjourn the meeting." Motion carried.