

**Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes
January 26, 2018
Town Council Chambers**

Present

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

Absent

D. McCallum
S. Day, Town Planner

Also Present

CAO J. Lawrence
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk
Deputy Mayor D. Roberts
MLA R. Delorey

Call to Order

Councillor D. MacInnis called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

Approval of Agenda

"It was Moved and Seconded that the Agenda be approved as presented." Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes of the meeting held December 7, 2017."
Motion carried

- Discussion with MLA R. Delorey

Councillor D. MacInnis welcomed R. Delorey to the meeting and roundtable introductions were made.

MLA Delorey noted that the accessibility legislation recently approved had been a long time in the making, and received a lot of attention, publicly. He spoke to issues that arose and how the legislation was paused, as the government brought in supports that were needed to make improvements, and that it was then passed this spring.

He noted that they now have a path forward, and an opportunity to learn more about what we mean about accessibility, and how it is now more about enabling people, and not about what people can't do, but what they can do.

MLA R. Delorey complimented the Town on having an Accessibility Committee, and noted this is the first municipality he is aware of to do so (as well as for the County for their Accessibility Challenge). He acknowledged K. MacDonald's work with a provincial committee on the recent legislation.

The Committee was advised that a Board will be announced, likely in February, and that a Directorate will be put in place that will have staff to provide assistance and direction. MLA R. Delorey noted that due to the significance of accessibility (and being more about people and human rights) it has been moved to the Justice Department. He then provided the following contact: Jerry Post 902-424-6975 jerry.post@novascotia.ca

The Committee was advised on an Accessibility program, as well as a new Accessibility program for small business. G. Mattie noted this also includes funding for transportation. The MLA then spoke to his personal interactions with accessibility including the Town and County challenge that he participated in. Discussion took place.

MLA R. Delorey spoke about Antigonish Community Transit and approximately 17 wheelbound individuals that took the bus on one day.

In response to a query from CAO J. Lawrence, the MLA advised that the current program is maxed at \$10,000., and that they are hoping the Federal government will also participate.

The Chair questioned whether there is a specific date for municipalities to become accessible and was advised by the MLA that 2030 is a date for broad accessibility. K. MacDonald noted that for municipalities, it will depend on standards and programs in places.

In response to a query Mayor from Mayor L. Boucher, MLA R. Delorey stated it was too early to say if additional funding might be available. He further noted he expects it might be a matter the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities would bring forward. Brief discussion took place.

Discussion took place on identifying priorities.

MLA R. Delorey spoke to an individual who contacted his office who was looking to make his business more accessible. G. Mattie spoke to efforts he has made.

At 1:55 PM MLA R. Delorey thanked the Committee for inviting him, and he left the meeting.

Business from Minutes

- Term of Reference (Approved by Council)

K. MacDonald acknowledged she had missed the past two meetings, and stated that one thing glaring in the Terms of Reference are no reference to seniors, and no mention of perceptual disabilities, and further stated it has to be amended.

- Stopgap Program (S. Day)

D. Wilson reported on behalf of S. Day. Mayor L. Boucher spoke to her understanding of the use of stopgap ramps.

G. Mattie referred to ramps for special needs utilizing used rubber is being looked at by a First Nation community.

CAO J. Lawrence questioned what the next steps would be moving forward. Discussion took place. CAO J. Lawrence stated he would speak with S. Scannell on the matter.

New Business

- Accessibility Audit

G. Mattie noted that the County did an accessibility audit with the aim of becoming barrier-free, and noted there was only one office that needed a small change. He noted there are two accessibility exemptions – historical buildings and narrow hallways, and stated he would recommend an audit for the Town Hall.

CAO J. Lawrence spoke to partnering with the County, and agreed to speak further with the Municipal Clerk.

“It was moved and seconded to recommend to Council to carry out an accessibility audit for Town Hall.” Motion carried.

- 2018/19 Budget

CAO J. Lawrence noted that budget is being done a bit differently for planning purposes, and that it would likely be a good idea for this committee to have a separate meeting to discuss a budget as it will likely involve other departments. He noted he would like to have input by mid-February.

Next meeting to be held Thursday, February 15th noon to 2:00 PM to discuss budget items.

“At 2:24 PM it was Moved and Seconded to adjourn the meeting.” Motion carried.