

**Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting
October 24, 2019
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Chair, Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis
Mayor L. Boucher
Councillor M. Farrell
G. Kell
D. McCallum
A. Dunphy

Also Present

CAO J. Lawrence
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk
S. Scannell, Director of Community Development
S/Cst. S. Smith

Absent with Regrets

P. Dec, Planner
G. Mattie

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM.

- Approval of Minutes

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes of the June 24 and August 8, 2019 Accessibility meetings.” Motion carried.

- S. Smith, Traffic Authority

S. Smith noted he had a request for an accessible parking space along Main Street, and further noted the Town does not have a formal policy for where accessible parking should be located. He spoke briefly to caution regarding on-street accessible parking.

He further noted that he had been asked to create accessible parking in the area of a physiotherapy business. Brief discussion took place.

Mayor L. Boucher indicated that in moving forward with an Accessibility Plan, an accessible parking policy could form part of that plan. She further noted that she would like to have input from the users as to where they would like to see the parking.

Various members of the committee provided comment.

It was generally agreed to have public consultation on accessible parking and incorporate comments from that venue into a policy.

It was suggested by D. McCallum that an app should be available for accessible parking. S. Scannell suggested that the Town could easily have a map on the Town’s website.

“It was recommended to Town Council to have staff give consideration to public consultation on accessibility with the ultimate goal of creating a parking policy and accessibility plan.” Motion carried.

- Town Hall Accessibility

CAO J. Lawrence noted he spoke with G. Mattie on his concerns with attempting to have an accessible ramp installed as well as another possible opportunity for accessibility to the Town Hall. He reviewed efforts made over the past two (2) years.

He further noted that the owner of the building next door recently undertook work to the driveway between that building and Town Hall. The changes made, including the slope, now makes this an opportunity worth looking at, and expanded on what changes could be incorporated to make the side door of the Town Hall the accessible entrance.

CAO J. Lawrence noted discussions took place with G. Mattie, the Chair of the Accessibility Committee, and Council, all who have agreed that the side door entrance would make the best accessible entrance.

Brief discussion took place.

CAO J. Lawrence expanded on the details on what work would be undertaken to the side entrance.

The Committee was in general agreement that the Town move forward with plans to make the side entrance as the accessible entrance to Town Hall.

It was noted that work continues to endeavor to keep the grant funding initially earmarked for an accessible ramp.

At 2:04 PM CAO J. Lawrence left the meeting.

- Sidewalk Work

The Chair noted that a considerable amount of sidewalk work has been carried out with accessibility in mind.

G. Kell raised concern with the entrance to the Kirk building.

Brief discussion took place and it was noted that the Town will be required to come up with an accessibility plan and will look to Wolfville to consider what they have for a plan. It was noted that the Town would likely be able to mirror some of what Wolfville has done.

- Main/Hawthorne Streets Intersection

G. Kell noted that the new crosswalk/intersection was installed this summer, and he was unable to reach the poll at the island as it was not paved over enough. It was noted the matter was addressed the next day.

- Columbus Field Swings

The Chair noted that when the budget was prepared this year, Council brought forth a 'wish-list'. This included a swing that could accommodate someone in a wheel chair for Columbus Field. S. Scannell noted he and L. Basinger are working with Recreation on the matter. He provided details on the proposed swing.

The Chair noted the Town will be looking to make other areas of Columbus Field more accessible including the splash pad.

Mayor L. Boucher spoke to a conversation she had with Mr. D. Boyd who is involved with an Alzheimers' group in the Pictou area, and is interested in re-establishing a group in this area. She stated Mr. Boyd also spoke about the Town becoming an Alzheimer friendly town. Mr. Boyd indicated he would like to make a presentation to both the Town and Joint Council.

Brief discussion took place. D. McCallum spoke to information available to make a town environment friendly.

D. McCallum suggested for education that it would be good to partner with the Library.

It was generally agreed to invite D. Boyd to an accessibility meeting at 1:30 on November 20th.

G. Kell raised concern with the location of a private hydrant near a hotel in Town.

At 2:27 PM D. McCallum left the meeting.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.