

**Accessibility Committee Meeting  
February 13, 2026  
Town Council Chambers**

**Present**

Chair, Councillor P. McKenna  
S. Huffman, Community Member  
C. Marshall, Community Member  
S. Cameron, Mayor

K. MacInnis, Director of Community Development, Recording Secretary

**Absent with Regrets**

M. Fougere, Municipal Clerk  
J. MacDonald, Community Member

**1. Call to Order**

Chair, Councillor P. McKenna called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

**Motion:** That the agenda be approved as presented. Agenda approved.

Moved by: C. Marshall

Seconded by: P. MacKenna

**Motion carried.**

**3. Acceptance of the Minutes**

The minutes of the November 27, 2025 meeting were accepted as presented.

The Chair updated the committee noting that Community Member, Gary Mattie resigned as Committee Member. His time and commitment to the Committee were greatly appreciated.

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**4.1 Accessibility Social Media Campaign & Website**

P. McKenna gave background on desire to do social media campaign and a website upgrades. These actions align with the accessibility plan. Following budget we aim to action these items. We hope to engage Shannon Long and/or the potential of a StFX Student in supporting us in making these website changes and launching a social media campaign. Timelines and details will be determined at a later date.

C. Marshall's survey draft was passed around and discussed. The survey was drafted to give people an opportunity to share feedback on community accessibility and initiatives. The survey offers an opportunity for individuals to share personal feedback on what they are doing to enhance accessibility as well as share ideas the Committee and Town can undertake.

The goal of the survey is to be on the website on a continuous basis where people can submit at any time. It is a way to collect information about current community and local

business initiatives that would be beneficial to share with the greater community. It was noted that it would also be great to collect photos as a part of this initiative to share on social media.

The question was raised regarding whether a question should be included asking if the individual identifies as someone with accessibility needs. The terminology is visible versus invisible disability (i.e. someone with lived experience). It was discussed that question should only be asked if it going to make a difference in how you evaluate the responses. Consideration may be given for future projects looking at broadening the definition we use for accessibility.

Terminology was discussed, including visible and non-visible disabilities. It was noted that such a question should only be included if it would meaningfully inform the evaluation of responses. Consideration may be given in future projects to broadening the definition of accessibility used.

S. Huffman currently serves on another accessibility board and recommended that the Committee review their soon to be published document because it holds a high standard of accessibility standards. The document should be publicly available in April.

Action for the Committee: Review the draft survey document and bring feedback to the next meeting.

#### **4.2 Sidewalk Improvements**

P. McKenna indicated that this item could come off the business arising from the minutes. Council has decided that in the future when a section of road is done all the work needed in terms of water, sewer, sidewalks, crossings, etc. will be completed and done to standard. There are other sidewalks and Active Transportation Trail that are on the Town's radar as well that will be under consideration by Council. The ideal would be to make sidewalks 6 feet wide so two wheelchairs can pass.

Discussion was had about scooters on sidewalk. The smaller electric scooters can be dangerous on sidewalks. Larger scooters designed for those with mobility issues are ideally suited for Active Transportation Trail.

S.Huffman noted that she discussed with EDPC there are no plans for a crosswalk in the lower area of Bay Street. This was mentioned as a concern noting the new apartment building, traffic from local business as well as those individuals living in the current apartment complex on Haley Road. Consideration for a bump out in the area for a crosswalk between the new drug store and the Tim Hortons. The Committee Chair was going to bring this to the attention of the Director of Public Works and Infrastructure for consideration.

#### **4.3 Committee Membership**

Welcome to Sally Huffman new committee member. Community member of Antigonish for the last 12 years. Sally brings her lived experience, technology expertise and grant writing experience to the committee.

#### **4.4 Accessible Parking**

The Town has converted the Mayor's parking spot at Town Hall to an Accessible spot. There is also a plan to make the Town Hall more accessible. Time and budget will be considered as part of moving this plan forward. There is also a study of Main Street being undertaken to determine if the accessible parking spaces are in the correct locations and they need to be reviewed for proper standards to ensure heights and curb cuts are appropriate. This review sits with the Traffic Authority and updates will be brought to the committee when they are available for review.

### **5. [New Business](#)**

#### **5.1 Accessibility Plan**

P. McKenna and MacInnis to meet and review the action plan to determine actions for 26-27 in terms of staff responsibility and any work the committee can undertake. Follow-up with the committee at the next meeting for additional committee input.

#### **5.2 2026/27 Budget**

Budgets to ideally be approved by the end of March. It was discussed that committee members should review the Accessibility Plan action items and rank their priorities from 1-5 with 1 being the most important and submit to Chair and staff for review either prior to or at the next meeting.

#### **5.3 Access Awareness Week in Nova Scotia – May 25 to 31, 2026**

K. MacInnis to do some research through AMANS to determine what other municipalities do for Access Awareness Week. The research will be shared with the Committee via email. Access Awareness Week could offer as an opportunity to kick off the social media campaign by sharing what other organizations and businesses are doing. Potential for an event or partnership with an organization to be coincide with Access Awareness Week.

#### **5.4 GROW Social Participation Group**

P. McKenna joined this group through the StFX Sociology Department. It is a four-year commitment, and it is a group working on social accessibility for seniors. The group is currently focused on Terms of Reference but once there is more information to share it will be brought forward to the committee for awareness.

### **6. [Adjournment](#)**

With no further business it was moved by S. Cameron to adjourn the meeting at 4:37p.m.