

**Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes
June 8, 2017
Town Council Chambers**

Present

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

Also Present

J. Lawrence, CAO
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order

Councillor D. MacInnis called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

Approval of Agenda

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

Roundtable Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Committee and roundtable introductions were made.

Budget

At the request of the Chair, CAO J. Lawrence advised that in considering a budget for this new Committee, Council earmarked \$50,000 for general operations, \$50,000 toward an accessibility ramp for Town Hall, \$50,000 for audio signals for crosswalk lights, and \$15-20,000 for new street lights, with appropriate signal sounds, for the Highland Drive intersection.

Ms. E. Stephenson, Active Living Coordinator Re: Ramp for Town Hall

Ms. E. Stephenson introduced herself, noting that she was present today as grant funding will be soon available and she would like the input of the committee with regard to an accessibility ramp for Town Hall.

The Committee was advised that a rendering of a concept ramp for the front of Town Hall, along with timelines had been carried out. However, there were issues with the concept drawing, and now the architect is willing to create 3 different concepts at no charge. She noted that with this in mind, she would like to draw on the expertise of the Committee.

Brief discussion took place and it was noted that there is a new grant available for ramp installation and that the 2015 National Building Code Standards are available to Town staff.

In response to a question from D. McCallum as to why the previous concept wasn't viable, E. Stephenson noted there was an issue with the manner in which the door would hinge, and that there could be issues with the property line. She further noted that the concept would have placed the ramp entering/exiting from the left side of the front of Town Hall.

G. Mattie questioned whether the grant for the ramp could also include interior improvements. In response, Mayor L. Boucher noted the cost of the ramp will likely be in the area of \$100-150,000, which is more than the maximum of the grant funding available, and further noting interior renovations would have to follow later.

The Committee was advised that two grants are available, one for community and one for workplace, and it appears that the Town will be able to apply for both. E. Stephenson spoke to other funding that might be available, and the deadline for funding applications.

E. Stephenson apprised the Committee on a project funding specific to youth driven projects.

D. McCallum noted that structure is as important as accommodating, and noted the more a structure looks like it belongs, the more inclusive it will be. CAO J. Lawrence responded and spoke to the funding approved by Council.

Brief discussion took place.

Terms of Reference

The Committee reviewed the Terms of Reference.

“It was moved and seconded that the Terms of Reference be amended to clarify who would be recording the Minutes.”

The Chair called for nominations for a Vice-Chair for the Committee, with K. MacDonald being nominated. The Chair called three more times for nominations. No additional nominations were made.

“It was Moved and seconded that Kim MacDonald be appointed Vice-Chair.” Motion carried.

D. McCallum questioned whether accessibility should be defined, in order for people not to think of only physical disabilities.

K. MacDonald noted that the Nova Scotia Accessibility Act will require municipalities to develop accessibility committees. She further noted the regulations have not yet been developed, and are likely a number of years away, and suggested the Committee look at the definition contained in the provincial guide.

Following brief discussion D. McCallum agreed to work on a draft definition for ‘accessibility’, and sited other documents that could be referenced.

CAO J. Lawrence commented on the Town having limited staff resources.

The Deputy Clerk agreed to send out contact information to all of the committee.

Meetings

The Chair reviewed the section of the Terms of Reference regarding meetings.

Brief discussion took place on current accessibility to Town Hall, with Mayor L. Boucher noting it likely does not meet current Building Code requirements.

In response to a query from G. Kell, B. Nheiley spoke to the original ramp concept. She noted that the property line to the town hall is very tight.

CAO J. Lawrence advised he had to leave due to another commitment, and noted this committee is considered an Advisory committee of the Town, and the need to look at Town Hall first with regard to accessibility.

At 12:58 PM CAO J. Lawrence left the meeting.

Following brief discussion, it was generally agreed to hold meetings the 1st Thursday of each month at 12:00 Noon at Town Hall.

Waterpark

Mayor L. Boucher noted work had been undertaken to the waterpark and that it is now somewhat accessible. She clarified by noting that although the pad is accessible, work still needs to be done to find a way to get people from the parking lot to the pad. Mayor L. Boucher stated that all projects moving forward need to be seen through an accessibility lens.

G. Kell noted that he had brought information from a PANS meeting he recently attended, and spoke briefly to provincial and federal accessibility funding that may be forthcoming.

G. Mattie noted some provincial grants have already been made available, and suggested our Member of Parliament (MP), Sean Fraser, be contacted as there may be a 2nd phase of grant funding.

The Chair noted both levels of government have made financial commitments.

D McCallum questioned whether it might be prudent to invite the Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), Randy Delorey and the MP to a meeting to try to find out what funding might be coming. Brief discussion took place on when they should be invited.

G. Mattie advised that the on June 19th both would be involved in a wheelchair challenge and expanded on the details.

“It was moved and seconded to congratulate our MP and MLA on the wheelchair challenge and invite them to the next Accessibility Advisory Committee in July.” Motion carried.

“At 1:13 PM it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.”