

**Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting
May 27, 2019
Town Council Chambers**

Present

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

Also Present

D. Wilson, Acting CAO
S. Scannell, Director of Community Development

Absent with Regrets

P. Dec, Planner

Call to Order

Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis called the meeting to order 12.05: PM.

Approval of Agenda

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the agenda with three (3) additions" Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

S. Scannell reported that P. Dec had contacted the Halifax Downtown Business Commission regarding their stopgap program, noting liability can be addressed through a permitting process for commercial businesses. It was suggested the Town look into the matter of a partner to supply ramps and work with merchants.

Brief discussion took place on next steps, finding a partner, and building a prototype. It was noted there may be funding available to businesses interested in having a ramp for their building, however, it was noted the ramps would not meet code.

Councillor M. Farrell supported the need to have the town coordinate efforts between a partner and the business community.

D. MacCallum spoke to a previous application by the Sunflower store for a ramp at the front of their building. D. MacCallum was requested to relay to them that they should reapply their application for a ramp.

It was noted that the ramps are not necessary always used by disabled people.

S. Scannell, noted he could reach out to CACL to determine their interest in building ramps and go from there.

It was noted there would have to also be a means to access the ramps to businesses, perhaps utilizing a window sticker featuring the business phone number.

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held on April 29, 2019 as presented.” Motion carried.

- Town Hall (Ramp)

S. Scannell noted the tender package (from DSRA Architects) for the ramp was based on the package the Town had selected, and noted he had been working with G. Mattie to ensure it not only meets code but also is functional. G. Mattie provided comment on the first landing come out another 2.5', and used G. Kell's scooter as an example as well as new chairs requiring additional turning room, noting that although the ramp meets minimum code it is not fully functional as presented.

S. Scannell noted that there would be extra costs related to expanding the ramp. He further noted that the existing entrance, although it meets code, should be widened. He further spoke to the aesthetic differences between the two front entrances.

Discussion took place on the ramp and possible options and ensuring the ramp is correct when put in place. S. Scannell agreed to go back to the architects. S. Scannell noted the deadline to utilize the funding is this September.

Members of the Committee suggested appropriate sizes/changes to various aspects of the ramp/entrance. S. Scannell noted that the new ramp/entrance will become the main entrance to Town Hall, while the other existing front door would become a 'staff only' door.

- Budget

The Chair noted that there is \$15,000 allotted in the budget for Accessibility for things that might come up, stop-gaps for example. He noted capital/infrastructure projects such as sidewalk replacement from the RK Nursing Home to Pleasant Street will be looked at through an accessible lens.

The Mayor noted that last year funds were budgeted to have a recreation staff person available to assist children with special needs in the summer programs.

- Update on The Sandlot Ballfield Project

Councillor M. Farrell provided background details on the soon to be installed Sandlot Ballfield Project, noting the project is now underway. A breakdown of the funding was detailed.

Councillor M. Farrell commended those involved in fundraising to ensure this project came to fruition.

It was noted there will be a special grand opening.

- Town of Wolfville

The Mayor noted the Town of Wolfville was an accessibility project with funding from the NSFJ and perhaps the Federal government. She stated she and the Chair will travel to Wolfville to look at what they have done and their plans.

The Chair noted that Rick Hansen was the guest speaker at the last NSFJ conference.

- Crosswalks

G. Kell noted that at the corner of Church and St. Ninian Streets (same side as CACL) the corner of the sidewalk seems to get chewed up every year. He noted he had asked back in March to have it fixed.

Councillor M. Farrell noted that there is a lot of water that runs off of a vacant property that is likely causing the problem, and which is to be rectified during the development of a new apartment building.

The Chair noted that the matter would be brought to the attention of the Engineer.

G. Kell also identified an issue in the height between the bridge and sidewalk near Keltic Motors.

G. Mattie brought forth an issue brought up to him, where there are three doors to one store, which is probably to code but not functional. Brief discussion took place. It was generally agreed that the Town start with a gentle approach to the manager of the building to see if the doors could be made more functional.

It was suggested that in the visit to Wolfville it be determined whether they have an approach to matters such as above.

- Timing of Meetings

The Chair noted that now that he has retired he is more flexible. G. Mattie would prefer 1:00 for personal reasons.

Next Meeting June 24th at 1:00 PM.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:02 PM.