



## Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

Place: Council Chambers  
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024  
Presiding Officer: Josephine MacDonald  
Members present: Tracy Briggs, Danielle Laurie, Megan Marchant, Amanda Purdy, and Deputy Mayor Arnold MacDonald  
Regrets: Mandy Blake, Kirsten Hiltz, and Olivia Canning

*A quorum was present throughout the meeting.*

**Staff in attendance:** Linda Cloney – CAO (recording secretary)

### 1. Call to Order/Welcome Amanda Purdy/ Introductions

Josephine MacDonald called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM and extended a warm welcome to Amanda Purdy in attendance via Zoom.

### 2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Deputy Mayor MacDonald and seconded Danielle Laurie that the agenda of the Accessibility Advisory Committee for March 14, 2024, be approved, as presented.

***Motion Carried***

### 3. Approval of the Previous Minutes – October 26, 2023

***Approved by***

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maurie".

**Josephine MacDonald, Chair, on March 13, 2024**

***\*\*Signed by new chair Danielle Laurie on March 13, 2024***

#### **4. Business**

##### **4.1 Election for Chair, one-year term – deferred from October 26, 2023**

With the assistance of Deputy Mayor Arnold MacDonald, the floor was opened for nominations for Chair. Chair Josephine MacDonald nominated Danielle Laurie.

Hearing of no additional nominations for Chair, Danielle Laurie was elected Chair through acclamation.

##### **4.2 Election for Vice-Chair, one-year term – deferred from October 26, 2023**

With the assistance of Deputy Mayor Arnold MacDonald, the floor was opened for nominations for vice chair. Deputy Mayor Arnold MacDonald nominated Jo MacDonald.

Hearing of no additional nominations for vice chair, Jo MacDonald was elected Vice Chair through acclamation.

##### **4.3 Closure of Water Street Bridge – update by Linda Cloney**

Linda Cloney presented to the committee a brief update. On March 14, 2024, there was a meeting with Town Staff, two Deputy Ministers and the MLA regarding the Oxford Water Street Bridge closure and the difficulties it posed with accessibility and access for those walking from or to the “south side” of Oxford. Through this meeting, it was agreed that the Deputy Ministers and the MLA would encourage the Department of Highways to prioritize the investigation of the Water Street bridge. More discussion and information to follow as available.

##### **4.4 Process of the accessibility audits of municipal buildings – update**

**4.4.1 – Capitol Theatre**

**4.4.2 – Fire Hall**

**4.4.3 – Arena**

**4.4.4 – Crosswalk and Bridge**

**4.4.5 – Medical Centre**

**4.4.6 – Oxford Pioneer Heritage Club**

#### **4.4.7 – Town Hall**

A thank you was extended for the help received in the accessibility audits of the Capitol Theatre, Firehall, Arena, Crosswalk and Bridge, Medical Centre, Oxford Pioneer Heritage Club, and Town Hall with a special thanks extended to Jo MacDonald and Tracy Briggs for their efforts in the groundwork for these audits.

The audits contain all the findings. However, one of the biggest things noticed with each audit is the absence of automatic doors, which should be considered a high-priority item.

It was noted that the arena is working on a man lift.

Discussion was had regarding the Ellis St. crosswalk – this is the crosswalk that Tracy Briggs often uses. It was recommended that the crosswalk at this location be moved to the other side.

All of the items discussed are in their respective audits.

#### **4.5 Town Parking Lots – Gazebo and Skateboard Park**

Chair Josephine MacDonald noted that the parking lots at the Gazebo and Skateboard Park should have one spot each designated as an accessible parking space and suggested that consideration be given to the recommendations contained in the report for the Council to consider in the future as a recommendation from the Accessibility Committee.

#### **4.6 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee – discussion**

Linda Cloney discussed with the council that a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee is in the initial planning stages. This committee has had no meetings yet and it may serve in overlapping and aiding in some of the work that the Accessibility Committee is currently performing. An invitation to the committee was given to those interested in joining this committee to put their names forward.

#### **4.7 Nova Scotia Access Awareness Week – 2024 (May 26 – June 1) – plan an event?? Town fly a flag, proclamation...**

Linda Cloney discussed the Nova Scotia Awareness Week with the Committee for May 26 to June 1, 2024. The Town of Oxford has a flag that will be flown for this week that has been received free of charge and a proclamation would be done for this week as well. Linda discussed with the committee regarding having a gathering or fair to celebrate this week. If anyone is interested, ideas would be welcomed.

#### **4.8 Flashing Red Lights at Main Intersection – discussion**

Linda Cloney summarized to the committee that the work to connect and ensure the stop signs are now flashing red is now completed.

#### **4.9 Accessibility Report Card**

The accessibility report cards are now in the hands of the Town to look at and categorize for items needing to be done and the progress of each item.

#### **4.10 Report Card and Statistics, *for information only.***

#### **4.11 Built Environment audits of outdoor spaces.**

The next round of audits is to be done for the outdoor spaces. Chair Josephine MacDonald was looking for volunteers. Danielle Laurie volunteered to work with Jo on the outdoor audits. A list of audits needed was to be created.

Linda Cloney discussed with the committee, as was related to outdoor spaces, the Walk and Wheel Information session that was to be held on April 17, 2024, at the Capitol Theatre and extended a welcome to all committee members to attend.

Amanda Purdy discussed that the Capitol Theatre is currently an accessibility concern and often prevents attendance from those with disability and discussed changing it as a venue for the Walk and Wheel Information session. Suggestions for having it at the Legion or

the Firehall were discussed. This information is also contained in the audit report for the Capitol Theatre regarding accessibility issues. Further consideration will be given to the Walk and Wheel Information Session venue.

**5. Correspondence**

**5.1 November 2023 RHFAC eNews, for information only**

**5.2 Rick Hansen: Unbreakable. Fifty Years Later – CTV Special, for information only**

**5.3 February 2024 RHFAC eNews, for information only**

**6. Schedule the next meeting date**

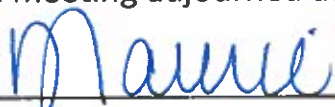
The committee members expressed that the next meeting be held on a day other than Thursday for consideration for those who cannot attend on Thursdays.

A consensus from the committee on trying the next meeting on a Monday night was given and the meeting would be every two months.

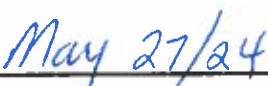
The next meeting date was scheduled for May 27, 2024, at 6:00 PM.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 PM

  
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**Josephine MacDonald, Chair**

  
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**Stan McDougall, Recording Secretary**

  
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**Date Approved**

