



Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

Place: Council Chambers
Date: Monday, Nov 25, 2024
Presiding Officer: Danielle Laurie
Members present: Megan Marchant, Olivia Canning, Mandy Blake, Tracy Briggs, and Amanda Purdy
Regrets: Arnold MacDonald, Ashlyn Brownell and Padraic Moore

A quorum was present throughout the meeting.

Staff in attendance: Linda Cloney – CAO and Stan McDougall – regrets (recording secretary for recorded meeting)

1. Call to Order / Welcome

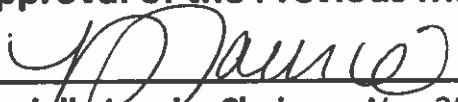
Chair Danielle Laurie called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM with round-table introductions to welcome Ashlyn Brownell.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Olivia Canning and seconded by Megan Marchant that the agenda of the Accessibility Advisory Committee for November 25, 2024, be approved, as presented.

Motion Carried

3. Approval of the Previous Minutes – October 28, 2024.



Danielle Laurie, Chair, on Nov 25, 2024

4. Business

4.1 Combine Plans – Accessibility, Anti-Racism, and Equity – Update

Linda Cloney discussed with the committee that a new plan is required by March 31, 2025, called the Equity, Antiracism and Diversity plan. Both Linda and Stan attended a symposium in Wolfville where a lot of information was shared and networking between various municipalities. Discussion of the possibility of combining both the Accessibility and the Equity, Antiracism and Diversity plan was had. After evaluating the two plans, it was decided that the two plans should remain separate at this time.

4.2 Accessibility Plan – discussion

Updates are necessary to the plan with a lens of plain, clear language and equity, antiracism and diversity.

There were also a few goals from the original plan including on page 34 where the Town of Oxford Accessibility Advisory Committee will prepare a Town Oxford Accessible report card for the Council by March 31 of each year commencing in 2024 which measures performance and actions of the plan which may also include recommendations to improve the plan. Secondly, the plan calls for a public review and evaluation of the Town of Oxford Accessibility plan before the end of the fiscal year. This may include the posting of the review of the Accessibility Plan report card online for public input and accountability.

4.3 Snow and Ice Management Policy – accessibility lens / discussion

Linda discussed the Town of Oxford Snow and Ice Management Policy with the committee that has been in development with public works supervisor Nick Purdy and Linda. Recently, the Walk and Wheel-Ability

report discussed the Snow and Ice Management Policy in the report. With the lens of accessibility, recommendations from the Walk and Wheel-Ability report were recommended to be added to the update of the Accessibility Plan.

4.4 Winter Snow Clearing and Parking Bylaw – accessibility lens / discussion

This topic was covered in the previous agenda item.

4.5 Transportation

Amanda discussed that as a member of the Accessibility Committee for the County of Cumberland, discussion has been focused on the Human Rights Remedy, which is mandating that members move out into community from locations such as the Sunset Communities. With this mandate, there is a shortage of transportation services. Sunset Community only has a limited number of vehicles and there is only one cab service in Oxford and none in Pugwash. CCTS (Cumberland County Transportation Services), currently only has 5 vehicles. Their vehicles are often booked well in advance to transport individuals to their medical appointments throughout the province. Transportation services are just not available for extracurricular activities.

It was noted that there is only one wheelchair accessible vehicle through CCTS. Meetings are being conducted through the County's Accessibility Committee with the province and other transportation services to see what can be done to make more vehicles available for needed transportation services. With the lack of transportation services and the deadline of 2026 to have members fully move out into community, the fear is further isolation of community.

Funding opportunities including grants in conjunction with other organizations are necessary and further discussions and

recommendations are welcomed including the formation of transportation groups, etc.

The Human Rights Remedy is pushing communities to explore more accessible modes of transportation, transportation services and community accessibility overall.

5. Correspondence

Nil

6. Schedule next meeting date

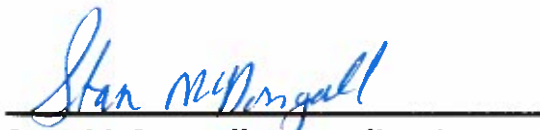
The committee recommended that a meeting is to be scheduled in 2025. Monday, January 20, 2025, at 6:00 PM was tentatively scheduled.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM



Danielle Laurie, Chair



Stan McDougall, Recording Secretary



Date Approved