

REQUEST FOR DECISION 027-2018

Title: Accessibility Advisory Committee Policy

Date: 2018-04-03

Department: Corporate Services



SUMMARY

Accessibility Advisory Committee Policy

In September 2017 the Province of Nova Scotia passed Bill No. 59 – the *Accessibility Act*, Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2017. Municipalities are required to establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee to prepare an Accessibility Plan within one year of being prescribed.

Although Municipalities have not yet been prescribed, the Town has been selected as a pilot project. Therefore, the Town must establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee.

DRAFT MOTION:

That Council approve the Accessibility Advisory Committee Policy 110-009

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1) CAO COMMENTS

The CAO supports the recommendations of staff.

2) LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

In September 2017 the Province of Nova Scotia passed Bill No. 59 – the *Accessibility Act*, Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2017. Municipalities are required to establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee to prepare an Accessibility Plan within one year of being prescribed. Municipalities have not yet been prescribed.

Section 26 of the Municipal Government Act enables Council, by policy, to establish citizen advisory committees which shall advise the council.

3) STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the Accessibility Advisory Committee Policy 110-009.

4) REFERENCES AND ATTACHMENTS

1. Accessibility Presentation, Gerry Post
2. Accessibility Advisory Committee Policy 110-009 (attached)

5) DISCUSSION

In September 2017 the Province of Nova Scotia passed Bill No. 59 – the *Accessibility Act*, Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2017. The purpose of *Act* is to have an Accessible Nova Scotia by 2030, Preventing and Removing Barriers, Continued Community Engagement & Transparency, and Prescribes Requirement for Accessibility Plans and Standards. Municipalities will be required to prepare an Accessibility Plan within one year of being prescribed. Municipalities have not yet been prescribed.

Although Municipalities have not yet been prescribed, the Town has been selected as a pilot project. Therefore, the Town must establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee. The AAC is a Committee of Council and not a Task Force because the Committee has on-going responsibilities once the Plan has been established. As well, the Accessibility Plan must be reviewed every three (3) years.

At least one half of committee members must be persons with disabilities or representatives of organizations representing persons with disabilities. Following the Committee of the Whole meeting, the Town will advertise and reach out to the community to find committee members for the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

6) FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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The Accessibility Advisory Committee has been created to prepare an Accessibility Plan for the Town of Wolfville. The Town has been selected through the UNSM/Provincial Accessibility Working Group to be a pilot project to develop a template for other municipal plans. The Town has included \$15,000 in the 2018/19 Operating Budget to assist with the development of the Town's Accessibility Plan. The \$15,000 funded through the Town's Operating Reserve Fund.

7) REFERENCES TO COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN AND TOWN REPORTS

The Accessibility Plan for the Town of Wolfville meets the Town's Strategic Direction to Improve the Quality of Life for All.

Council Strategic Principles:

1. **Affordability:** The work of the Committee has been included in the Town's 2018/19 Operating Budget and is funded through the Town's Operating Reserve Fund.
2. **Transparency:** The Town's Accessibility Plan will be developed through the work of an Accessibility Advisory Committee and all meetings will be open to the public.
3. **Community Capacity Building:** Citizen advisory committees build community capacity.
4. **Discipline to Stay the Course:** The Committee was approved in the 2018/19 Operating Plan.
5. **United Front:** N/A
6. **Environmental Sustainability:** N/A

8) COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Policy 110-009 will be updated in the appropriate places and communicated to the public. The Policy will be reviewed with the Committee upon the appointment of the Committee members. Staff will begin advertisement for Committee members following the April 3 Committee of the Whole meeting.

9) ALTERNATIVES

Provide Council with alternative options to the recommended decision. (i.e. do not approve).