
ATTENDING

- Chair, Councillor Jennifer Ingham
- Vice Chair, Dwayne MacLeod
- Mayor Wendy Donovan
- Rebecca Smith
- Pamela Capern
- Emily Duffett
- Birgit Elssner

ALSO ATTENDING:

- Meghan Swanburg, Acadia University
- Director of Parks and Recreation, Kelton Thomason
- Director of Finance Mike MacLean
- Coordinator of Special Projects & Communication, Barb Shaw
- Recorder, Karen Outerleys

REGRETS:

CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Councillor Ingham, called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

- 1. Approval of Agenda** **MOTION: IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS CIRCULATED.**

CARRIED

- 2. Approval of the Minutes** **MOTION: IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE MINUTES FOR JULY 11, 2022, ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE BE APPROVED.**

CARRIED

- 3. NS Accessibility Directorate Update**
- Introduced Andrew Jantzen, Accessibility Capacity Building Program Specialist, working with all public prescribed sector bodies building the capacity to do the work that the Directorate has committed to and Jasmine Smart, Outreach and Compliance Officer.
 - Andrew and Jasmine updated the committee on some of the work completed since 2017; Access by Design 2030 was released, Standard Development is underway, Accessibility Awareness Campaign underway, Collaborative Grants, Compliance and enforcement framework developed,

Review of the Accessibility Act and the Government of NS Accessibility Plan was implemented between 2018-2021.

- Standards Development outlines all the standards and timelines up to 2030, key to approving Accessibility in Nova Scotia and meeting the goal of Accessibility NS by 2030. Six standards currently identified, Built Environment, Education, Employment, Goods & Services, Information & Communication and Transportation.
 - Accessibility Directorate Staff provide support to Standard Development Committee, and the SDC assists the Accessibility Advisory Board in making recommendations to the Minister on the content and implementation of accessibility standards.
 - Standards will apply to all public sector bodies, to include Government of NS, municipalities, regional libraries, museums, post-secondary institutions, crown corporations, regional centre for education and any others as the standard development advances.
 - Jasmine reviewed the Compliance and Enforcement portion of the Accessibility Act with the committee. Compliance and Enforcement requirements are to monitor and enforce compliance act and accessibility standards. The emphasis is on education and awareness, supporting organizations to comply with the Act. Enforcement measures may be used if collaborative efforts do not result in compliance, to include orders, administrative penalties and summary convictions.
 - Compliance and Enforcement Framework approach includes monitoring & detecting non-compliance, verifying non-compliance, collaborating to achieve compliance, achieving compliance through response tools (enforcement) and ongoing monitoring & collaboration.
 - Required under the Accessibility Act to develop and make publicly available an accessibility plan and establish an accessibility advisory committee, as of October 2022, 71(80%) have developed accessibility plans, 18/19% indicate plan will be completed fall 2022 and one has not begun.
 - Developing resources to support municipalities, two released this summer with two to follow.
- 4. Chairperson's Comments**
- Hurricane Fiona and the lasting effect it had on many residents, accentuated the importance of our Vulnerable Persons Registrations that provides the Police Services with emergency contact information to assist individuals during emergencies. Importance of checking on your neighbors.

-
- Highlighting a new Accessible Taxi Service, called Extra Care Taxi, now available in HRM, operating 24/7.
- 5. Acadia University Update**
- Meghan Swanburg presented on behalf of Acadia.
 - Since July we have been working on a couple wayfinding sign projects for buildings on Campus. Signage follows RHFC guidelines includes raised text, high contrast white on dark Acadia blue, braille underneath the text. Plan to start to incorporate Mi'kmaq language as well.
 - Accessibility Hub, centralized website, where folks can access different aspects of accessibility on campus, student support, wayfinding maps.
 - Submitted funding to support a project to install an elevator in U-Hall, Jan 2023 the funding will be announced.
 - Adding more parking which includes 2 accessible parking spaces.
 - Emily Duffett updates on the Accessibility Advisory committee for Acadia, accessible plan was submitted to the government to meet the deadline. With James Sanford's direction Emily will take over the development of the committee, with the assistance of a co-op student. A grant to the Federal Government was submitted to help expand programs including the Access Acadia program.
 - The Engineering class has been approached about adding accessibility to the curriculum.
 - Thanked the committee for the letter of support for the elevator funding.
- 6. Wolfville Accessibility Plan 2.0 Update**
- Wolfville 2.0 Plan was presented to council, the plan was adopted by the committee and taken to Council, and it has been approved.
 - Director Thomason will lean on Director MacLean to get direction on how to transfer the plan to where he brought it to council approval, getting it ready for print and website. Kelton will work with the Directorate in terms of plain language. Once final copy received, and with committees' permission Version 2.0 will be the road map to address our action items to move forward. Thank you again Director MacLean!
- 7. Roundtable Discussions**
- Is there funding associated with supporting organizations to comply and collaboration? There aren't a lot through the NS Accessibility Directorate office, but Jasmine and Andrew would be happy to inquire.

-
- Jasmine will share the link to the Compliance Framework as well as the presentation.
 - The Built Environment Standard will be posted for public consultation in winter 2022, so currently no additional information, trails will be included in that framework, as not all trails will lend themselves to accessibility.
 - Both Standards and Compliance are equally important, as each standard comes out there will be compliance and enforcement associated with every standard.
 - Letter of support from the Wolfville Curling Club to approve accessibility.
 - Ideas about Community Outreach and how that would look, perhaps a presentation in the same way Andrew and Jasmine did for this committee, be arranged with the WBDC. Then the business committee would have a better idea of the different types of accessibility. How do we take this plan out into the community and have conversations about it? Take 2.0 plan to a presentation night event at the Farmer's Market, folks could grab a copy and have a conversation with members at the booth. Announce the event on Facebook, website and e-newsletter.
 - Request to be added to the next WBDC agenda to highlight Wolfville 2.0.
 - Engage a 4th year student on a placement to help plan out the event at the Farmers Market. Director Thomason did have a Community Development student approach him who would like to do some work with the committee.
 - From the previous minutes, had the committee followed up with Alex involving the service gaps, Director Thomason will look into that and get back to the committee.
 - Pamela expressed her thanks for allowing her to be part of the committee. Pamela looks forward to seeing how things progress in the Wolfville community.

8. Chairperson's Closing

- Thanked Pamela for all her work on behalf of the committee, and being one of the original committee members, working on both Plans.
- A thank you went out to Rebecca Smith who has served 2 terms on the committee, Rebecca was involved in the conception of the plan.
- Dwayne Macleod was thanked for his work with the committee and serving as Chair and Vice chair.

-
- Thank you to Mike MacLean for all his work getting the committee started.

9. Next Meeting

- January 9th, 2023

10. Adjournment

- **Members called an adjournment at 5:34 pm.**

Approved at the January 9, 2023 Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting.

As recorded by Karen Outerleys, Administrative Assistant Public Works & Parks