



Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting

Monday, December 8, 2025

4:30 p.m.

Council Chambers – Town Hall

Agenda

Item #	Description	Required Action	Lead	Time
1.	Call to order and Land Acknowledgement	-	Cllr. Elliott	4 mins
2.	Approval of Agenda	Decision	Cllr. Elliott	2 mins
3.	Approval of Minutes from May 12, 2025	Decision	Cllr. Elliott	2 mins
4.	Declaration of Conflicts of Interest	Decision	Committee	2 mins
6.	Chairperson's Comments	Comments	Cllr. Elliott	5 mins
5.	Public Input PLEASE NOTE: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reminder to all speakers that the Town conducts its business with the seven sacred teachings in mind, truth, honesty, love, courage, respect, wisdom and humility.• Members of the public participating in public input will conduct themselves in a manner that is respectful to the public, committee and staff. Should this not occur, the Chair will advise them to end their questions and/or comments immediately.• You have up to 5 minutes to provide input to be directed to the Chair.• Responses will be provided after the	Comments/ feedback to be directed to the Chair	Cllr. Elliott	-



	<p>meeting either via email or in person and may be included on a future CAO Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any input that relates to personnel, current or potential litigation issues, or planning issues for which a public hearing has already occurred, but no decision has been made by Council, will not be responded to. 			
7.	Old Business - Progress Report on Accessibility Plan	Comments	Barb	20 mins
8.	Roundtable	Comments	Cllr. Elliott & Barb	15 mins
9.	Next Meeting – February 9, 2026	Discussion and possible Decision	Cllr. Elliott	5 mins
10.	Adjournment	Decision	Cllr. Elliott	1 min



Progress Reporting for the Accessibility Advisory Committee

Wolfville's Accessibility Plan 2025 – 2028 is less than a year old but progress on our commitments is measurable. This report provides an overview of accomplishments over the past year. The contents of this report and any additional comment from the Accessibility Advisory Committee will be shared with Council before the end of March, 2026.

Built Environment

Sidewalks

Throughout the Town, sidewalk condition remains a concern. In August 2025, Safesidewalks Canada worked on target areas that were identified in a 2024 assessment that identified 109 defects in 141 sidewalk panels that were considered as “vertical displacement” defects. Vertical displacement means how far a panel of sidewalk has moved up or down over time.

The majority of sidewalk panels that were repaired by grinding down uneven, potential trip hazards were in the main downtown core street(s), with secondary locations being other high traffic sidewalk segments near churches, senior centers, medical facilities, schools, parks, athletic facilities, post offices, etc.

In the year ahead, Safe Sidewalks Canada is returning to do 5 days of accessibility grinding. Pleasant and Skyway will also be a focus for sidewalk replacement with concrete being poured, as the asphalt sidewalk on these streets is in very poor condition.

Earnscliffe will be receiving new concrete sidewalk in conjunction with the full street rebuild scheduled for 2026.

The focus for 2027, pending approval from Council, will be replacing asphalt sidewalk with concrete on the east end of Main Street in hopes that this section of the street will be resurfaced with new curb in 2026.

Public Washroom Assessment

A public washroom accessibility audit has been completed by Houdini Architects. Washrooms in Town Hall, the Recreation Centre, the public works building, the Wolfville Library and at RailTown were assessed. None of the washrooms met the current accessibility standards and steps for compliance were laid out in the report that was delivered in August 2025.

The Town is now working on a larger assessment of all Municipal facilities to help develop a plan for the future use of town buildings. The washroom assessment is being rolled into this project and will inform this work. The consultants working on the facilities review are using the current accessibility built standards as a minimum requirement for any renovations or new builds for the Town.

Reservoir Park Accessible Washroom and Change Station

Our newest public washroom opened to the public in October. The new building in Reservoir Park offers a fully accessible washroom and the building also has a large covered patio area that will provide shade.

In the spring, the Town will work to source a Mobi-mat. A Mobi-mat is a portable, non-slip, roll-out access mat that creates a stable pathway over challenging surfaces, like sand or gravel, for people using wheelchairs, walkers, strollers, or beach carts. This will help improve access to those who would like access from the new change station and washroom to the water's edge.

The accessible washroom will be open year-round to ensure the park remains an inclusive and welcoming space for all people.

Automatic Door Opener at Recreation Centre

The automatic door opener at the Recreation Centre was finally activated and made operational. Unfortunately, over the summer months, numerous incidents involving forced entry occurred in the space, resulting in vandalism and property damage. The door that was connected to the automatic opener was damaged and needs repair.

Upgrades to the downtown portion of the Harvest Moon Trail

The section of Harvest Moon Trail that runs through Wolfville's downtown is being re-built to provide a safer, visually pleasing, linear parkway for those who wish to roll and stroll through Town. This re-build includes a new 3-metre-wide concrete parkway that will run from the West end of the Wolfville Farmers' Market to the intersection of Front and Harbourside Drive. The remaining greenspace will be cleaned-up, levelled and landscaped and the original railway tracks will be topped with crusher dust, to provide another surface for folks moving through Town.

Concrete, not asphalt, is being used along this popular section of the trail to provide more support to those who roll and stroll in alignment with the Town's commitment to use concrete over asphalt whenever possible.

The trail work happening beside the Wolfville Farmers' Market will include brush clearing. Seating and lighting will also be added as the project progresses.

Trail crossings at Elm and Harbourside will be better defined and well marked, increasing safety for both trail users and motorists. The sidewalk at Harbourside will also be connected to the existing sidewalk on Front Street.

The improvements in this corridor are intended to connect to the Main Street bike lanes, at the Recreation Hub, at 282 Main Street, at the East end of Waterfront Park. To the West, the trail will also re-connect with Main Street.

This new parkway will provide more space for people to safely share the trail and enjoy the Town's active transportation network, which is being built to support safer rolling and strolling throughout our community.

Communications

Plain language, captioning of videos, and image descriptions on social media remain as our usual practices. Braille is now found on most Town business cards.

Council Chambers Audio/Video System

After on-going complaints and concerns about guest experience when watching Council and committee meetings online or from chambers, the Town is now exploring a full replacement of our audio/video system. The system being considered by the Town is like what is used by the County of Kings.

Employment

Human Resources Service Review

The Town has been involved in a human resources service review that is being facilitated by Doane Grant Thornton. This process is being completed collaboratively with Kentville and Berwick and a joint approach to human resources management may be considered in the year ahead.

Wolfville endorses inclusive employment initiative

In September, Council motioned support for a new inclusive employment initiative in Wolfville that L'Arche Homefires is working on with the purposeful group. This will position Wolfville as a model Inclusive Employment Community – a place where individuals of all abilities can thrive through meaningful employment. This model is built around the creation of local “carved employment” opportunities.

Carved employment is a supported employment strategy that creates tailored jobs for individuals, often those with disabilities, by analyzing existing jobs, identifying non-specialized or transferable tasks, and combining or modifying them to fit the specific skills and needs of a job seeker and the goals of an employer.

With carved employment opportunities, individuals who may currently lack choice and who may be excluded from community, have an opportunity to experience the benefits of meaningful work, social inclusion and personal growth.

The proposed program will provide employers with support to create and maintain real jobs within various work environments. Endorsement of this program will have the Town officially recognized as a supporter and authorize staff to provide feedback to program officials in an advisory capacity. The Town will also look into opportunities to participate in the program.

Goods and Services

Electric Scooters

E-Scooters returned to Wolfville in the spring and were even more popular than in the 2024 season. This year, staff worked with the program operator to ensure the scooters were returned to virtual corrals after use. These designated parking spots through the Town allowed for the e-scooters to be parked in a more deliberate way, with less impact to public walkways.

Helmet use was an on-going issue and a solution is being negotiated for next season, before the e-scooters are deployed in the Spring of 2026.

Bike Loan Program

The Town's new recreation hub's equipment loan program offered bicycles, on loan, as an important part of Wolfville's active transportation development project. Wolfville's Active Transportation Network will see more than 10 kilometres of routes created throughout the community in the years ahead to support rolling and strolling.

Wolfville's new bicycle fleet features many electrified models plus a specialized e-trike with bench seating to ensure every member of our community will have an opportunity to get around Town on the new network, that is being developed for all ages and abilities of users.

Staff worked hard through the summer and fall to keep up with demand and the accessible trike was a hit with families who felt welcome and included in this unique recreational program.

Soups and Sides

Soups and Sides is a barrier free community meal that runs for 30 weeks each year. While this program is named in the Town's Equity and Anti-Racism Plan, the welcoming and inclusive environment has allowed folks of all ages and abilities to enjoy this delicious form of community building.

With L'Arche core members attending the meal each week, volunteers worked to create a special "reserved" table that would welcome the L'Arche community, even when there was a big crowd already gathering. This allows core members to arrive on a more relaxed schedule and no one must struggle to find seating.

Transportation

Active Transportation Network

The Town is continuing to build-out an active transportation network to support rolling and strolling through our community. Full details of the project and all the connecting pieces can be found on WolfvilleBlooms.ca.

Micro-Transit

In the spring, staff visited Bridgewater and Yarmouth to learn everything about their Micro-Transit systems. With new information gathered, staff have requested an updated feasibility study from consultants to move this project closer to a pilot stage.

Seeing the accessible busses, chatting with bus riders, drivers and riding the bus routes helped to build staff's excitement for this project that will be designed to support all people who live, work, study and play in Wolfville.

An innovation challenge was also launched to ensure that the Town had fully engaged the campus community in the work happening at this stage of the project.

In November, staff, along with members of Council and our Accessibility Advisory Committee were excited to work with students through a Launch Box Innovation Challenge that focused on Micro-Transit.

Five student teams presented their micro-transit ideas on Nov. 20, and the quality of presentations exceeded expectations. Students focused on routes, ridership and accessibility. Many provided schedules, financial modelling, digital apps and websites.

The top two teams have been invited to present to Council in the new year, and their work will be shared with our consultants who are currently updating our micro-transit feasibility study.