



**ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 25, 2023**

PRESENT: Andrew Taylor, Chair
June Feswick, Vice Chair
Councillor Cathy Deagle Gammon
Councillor Paul Russell
Elizabeth Doull
Michelle Mahoney
Rachele Manett

REGRETS: Councillor Trish Purdy
April Adams
Kristen Hemming
Jordan Waterbury

STAFF: Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor, Office of Diversity & Inclusion/ANSAIO
Annie Sherry, Legislative Assistant
Andrea Lovasi-Wood, Legislative Assistant

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, reports, supporting documents, and information items circulated are online at halifax.ca.

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m. and the Committee adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 21, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Rachele Manett

THAT the minutes of August 21, 2023 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee waive the rules of order for section 45(1)(d) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, to extend the presentation time for Item 7.3.1 Accessibility Directorate Presentation from 10 minutes to 20 minutes.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

June Feswick stepped down from the Chair and Andrew Taylor assumed the Chair.

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by June Feswick

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence – None

7.2 Petitions – None

7.3 Presentation

7.3.1 Accessibility Directorate Presentation

The following was before the Committee:

- Presentation dated September 25, 2023

Dawn Stegen, Executive Director, Accessibility Directorate, and Laura Beth MacPherson, Manager, Accessibility Directorate gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the

Committee regarding the Provincial Accessibility Act, forthcoming updates to Provincial Accessibility Standards, and the Access Includes Everyone Awareness Campaign. Stegen noted that the public review of the proposed Built Environment Accessibility Standard was open for feedback until October 30, 2023, and the public review of the Employment Accessibility Standard would launch in November 2023.

Maddi Adams, Senior Policy Analyst, Accessibility Directorate responded to questions of clarification from the Committee regarding efforts to not duplicate regulation or legislation where they already exist and collaboration with Building Code regulators on accessibility training. Adams highlighted that the Built Environment Accessibility Standard would include temporary sidewalks, outdoor spaces, and trails.

Amy Middleton, Director of Policy and Standards, Accessibility Directorate, and Terri Lynn Almeda, Director of Programs and Services, Accessibility Directorate responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 2023 Town Hall Planning Discussion

The following was before the Committee:

- Staff memorandum dated September 22, 2023

Annie Sherry, Legislative Assistant, and Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor gave an overview of 2023 Town Hall Planning responded to questions of clarification from the Committee. Sherry noted that staff had explored alternative venues for the 2023 Annual Town Hall, and that the potential venues explored did not have a suitable combination of the technical, accessibility, or capacity requirements to host a hybrid event.

In response to the overview, the Committee agreed to proceed with the event date of November 21, 2023, at Paul O'Regan Hall in the Halifax Central Library, and noted their support for engaging an external consultant to facilitate the 2023 Town Hall provided that there was room in the budget. The Committee further asked that staff participating in the panel of the 2023 Town Hall be closely involved in the work they are providing updates on so that they would be well positioned to answer questions from the public, and to explore having representation from the Accessibility Directorate.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS – NONE

9.3 STAFF UPDATES – NONE

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – October 16, 2023

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

Annie Sherry
Legislative Assistant