

The Village of Bible Hill Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting was held on September 16, 2020 via videoconferencing, per the direction of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing issued July 29, 2020 (enclosed). The meeting was called to order by Chair Bell at 2:05 pm; the meeting adjourned at 2:48pm.

Call to Order: Committee member Joe Andrew
 Committee member Wanda MacDonald
 Clerk and Treasurer Bell
 Recording Secretary Chandler
 Village Commissioner and Deputy Chair Van Kroonenberg
 Parks and Recreation Director Kennedy

Regrets: Committee member Sarah Flemming

Attendees: Laura Gauthier, Built-environment Accessibility Advisor

It was decided by consensus of the Committee that Clerk and Treasurer Bell would act as Chair of the meeting.

Review and approval of minutes

Chair Bell called for review and approval of the minutes of June 17, 2020. Chair Bell recommended making an amendment noting the name of the person who called the meeting to order.

Committee member Andrew joined the meeting at 2:06pm.

Moved by MacDonald and seconded by Andrew, that the minutes of June 17, 2020, with amendment, be approved.
Motion carried.

Call for new or other business and review and approval of agenda

Chair Bell called for new or other business. Chair Bell noted that Laura Gauthier will be arriving late to the meeting, therefore her topic will be moved to before deciding the next meeting date.

Moved by Van Kroonenberg and seconded by MacDonald, that the agenda be approved. Motion carried.

Call for declaration of conflict of interests

Chair Bell called for any declarations of conflict of interest and no conflict was declared.

Miscellaneous business including delegations

Chair Bell presented two pieces of correspondence from the NS Accessibility Directorate. The first piece of correspondence was an email from Dawn Stegen, Interim Executive Director of the Accessibility Directorate, of

the Department of Justice, noting Gerry Post has recently retired, and Dawn Stegen is the current Interim Executive Director of the Accessibility Directorate. Chair Bell noted that Committee members can contact the Director of Accessibility Directorate as a resource.

The second piece of correspondence was an email inviting Committee members to an online lunch and learn webinar about developing accessibility plans and establishing accessibility advisory committees. The webinar will be offered on three dates:

- September 22nd – 12:00 – 1:00 PM
- September 30th – 12:00 – 1:00 PM
- October 7th – 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Committee member Andrew requested that the Village register him for the webinar on October 7th. The Committee discussed.

New Business

Review of draft accessibility plan template

Chair Bell reviewed a draft accessibility plan template. He noted that the document is a rough draft template that can be used as a start, based on outlines provided by the Province of Nova Scotia, and the plan developed by Town of Wolfville.

He noted that a plan introduced by the Village will be a three-year plan and will need to be reviewed every three years and amended as necessary.

Chair Bell continued to explain how this plan is not a policy, but a plan, that will outline goals, accomplishments, priorities, intended actions, timelines, etc. for the Village. He explained how the Accessibility Advisor Laura Gauthier has already started this work by noting accessibility accomplishments to date, and what else needs to be done in the future.

The Chair further explained the draft plan and provided the opportunity for questions and thoughts from the Committee. He requested each Committee member further review the document and each develop a list for the sections of the draft plan for the Village to address. Chair Bell noted that Town of Wolfville's plan can act as a great base for Village of Bible Hill.

Van Kroonenberg noted that she would like to see our crosswalks, sidewalks, etc. addressed, as these smaller projects are more manageable and more obtainable for the Village.

Laura Gauthier joined the meeting at 2:31 pm

Laura Gauthier – report

Chair Bell introduced Laura Gauthier, the Built-environment Accessibility Advisor, and invited her to present the report of her work on the built-environment to the Committee.

Laura Gauthier opened her presentation by explaining how she focused on the built-environment for Village of Bible Hill, working and inspecting facilities within the village, including parks, trails, crosswalks, and buildings.

Laura Gauthier presented a summary of her reporting.

Chair Bell thanked Laura for her report and invited committee members to ask any questions. Wanda MacDonald thanked Laura for her report, and noted that sidewalks are getting done, but more work remains. She explained how many crosswalk “buttons” are not accessible for those with mobility issues, as they cannot get close enough to the post itself. She explained how adding a (semi) circle of surfacing around the pole would make those crosswalk buttons more accessible and therefore safer for all.

Chair Bell noted that we can add the crosswalk buttons to the plan for action. He continued to explain how Laura’s work over the summer was to review accessibility with guidelines that currently exist, and developed checklists to conduct audits/inspections for accessibility, of which will be used when developing Village of Bible Hill’s Accessibility Plan.

Round table regarding self-study since last meeting of existing plan examples and NS Access by Design docs.

Chair Bell opened the floor to discussion.

Committee member Andrew discussed accessibility accomplishments of the Town of Wolfville. Committee member Andrew noted that he would like to receive training from the Rick Hansen Foundation, as it would benefit the Village of Bible Hill and local community. Chair Bell noted that the Rick Hansen Foundation Certification costs would need to be discussed with the Commission, as incurring costs is not authorized as of the current Committee policy.

Committee member MacDonald noted that committee members will continue to monitor for accessibility barriers within the Village, and note them for the next meeting. Chair Bell noted that anything requiring immediate attention should be brought forward to the office’s attention. MacDonald continued to state that the new log border at the Bible Hill Recreation Park has been installed but is not thought to be accessible and lacks entrances. Bell noted that the new wood fibre is what has been determined to be significantly more accessible versus existing pea gravel, and explained that there are a number of entrances to the wood fibre surfacing area where no log border exists. MacDonald noted that she will visit the park soon and further inspect the park and these recent upgrades.

Committee member Andrew stated that for those interested, he can join them at the park to inspect and note any barriers at Bible Hill Recreation Park.

Bell noted that the next step is to identify our priorities and actions to develop the draft plan, including feedback from the public. Chair Bell discussed the need for input from those that represent or identify as having a disability, and the importance of having documents, including the accessibility plan, in accessible format. He recommended that committee members review documents from Laura’s report, the Town of Wolfville’s Accessibility Plan, and to develop a list for Village of Bible Hill accordingly.

The Committee discussed.

Next meeting date

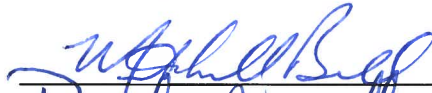
Chair Bell explained that the next meeting set by policy is set for the third Wednesday of December and asked the Committee whether there was any reason that the Committee felt an additional meeting date was necessary prior to that time. Hearing nothing, Chair clarified that the next Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting would take place Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 2:00pm.

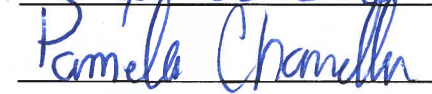
Adjournment

Moved by MacDonald that the September 16, 2020 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:48pm.

Chair Bell





Recording Secretary Chandler