

Village of Bible Hill
Accessibility Advisory Committee
February 17, 2021



The Village of Bible Hill Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting was held on February 17, 2021, in the Commission Chambers, at the Village Office, 67 Pictou Road. The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Van Kroonenburg at 2:00pm; the meeting adjourned at 3:03pm.

Call to Order: Committee member Joe Andrew
 Committee member Sarah Flemming
 Committee member Wanda MacDonald
 Clerk and Treasurer Bell
 Parks and Recreation Director Kennedy
 Recording Secretary Chandler
 Commission Deputy Chair Van Kroonenburg

Clerk and Treasurer Bell called the meeting to order at 2:00pm. The meeting ended at 3:03pm.

Review and approval of minutes

Chair Van Kroonenburg called for review and approval of the minutes of November 18, 2020. Bell recommended adding a call for a Committee Chair, as discussed at the November 18, 2020 meeting.

Moved by Flemming and seconded by MacDonald, that the minutes of November 18, 2020, be approved. Motion carried.

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

Bell called for new or other business. Bell requested to add Election of Committee Chair to Miscellaneous Business.

Moved by Van Kroonenburg and seconded by Andrew, that the agenda be approved, with the addition. Motion carried.

Call for declaration of conflict of interests

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

Miscellaneous business including delegations

Election of Committee Chair

Bell requested the Committee elect a Chair, as was deferred from the November 18, 2020 meeting. Donna Van Kroonenburg was recommended as Chair by Committee members. The Committee discussed. Clerk and Treasurer Bell offered to Chair the Committee as Van Kroonenburg mentioned that she is not always available.

Moved by Andrew and seconded by Flemming that the Committee recommend the Commission change the Accessibility Advisory Committee Policy to modify the meeting times from the third Wednesday in June and November at 2:00pm to the third Thursday of June and November at 3:30pm. Motion carried.

It was agreed by consensus that Donna Van Kroonenburg the Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Accessibility Act Timeline extension

Chair Van Kroonenburg invited Bell to discuss the letter received from the Minister of Justice. Bell informed the Committee that this letter states that the Village has a one year extension for the development of an Accessibility Plan, which is now extended to April 1, 2022. The Committee discussed.

Review of Draft Accessibility Plan Version 2: Achievements and Barriers

Chair Bell reviewed a second version of the draft accessibility plan. He noted that the document presented achievements and barriers, of Village facilities, parks, etc. He noted that some features of the Village, while not fully accessible, are currently accessibly friendly.

The Committee reviewed the draft plan by section, with discussion after each.

It was questioned whether the Village can obtain a volunteer to provide American Sign Language (ASL) during public Village meetings as requested. It was noted that this is indeed something the Village is looking into having available upon request. Committee members recommended putting out an expression of interest to determine if those who are capable of translating meetings into ASL when requested. Committee member Andrew informed the Committee that he can obtain the contact information for the individual ASL interpreter that Mobility Ryders have used.

It was noted that sign up forms for Village programming could be modified to provide a section of self-identification to better inform the Village of any accommodations required. It was further noted that the section of employment could also encompass volunteers accordingly, to ensure those seeking to volunteer, but may require specific accommodations.

Committee member Andrew volunteered to offer walk-throughs of Village spaces before public events to ensure they are barrier free for participants.

It was agreed by consensus that Version two of the draft accessibility plan currently meets expectations of the Committee, and that the Committee is making good progress.

New Business

Next steps

Clerk and Treasurer Bell discussed the excerpt of requirements under the Nova Scotia Accessibility Act, noting that to date, the Committee has completed most of the current requirements with respect to the Committee and draft plan. He further noted that at this time there are no set standards to compare the Village's plan to, but upon development of such standards, the Committee will work to address such standards accordingly. Bell

noted that the next step would be to prioritize the actions, the work needed to be completed to make the Village accessible, and to then make the draft plan available to the public, and to seek public input.

The Committee discussed.

Committee members stated that if the Village reached out to residents with accessibility issues, who may not have access to the internet, we may be able to obtain more input and feedback. It was noted that all Village residents receive the paper copy of the Action on the Hill newsletter, and that this would be a way to accomplish this reach out. It was noted that the next newsletter, set for the summer, should inform residents of the Accessibility Advisory Committee's work, and to question them what barriers they experience around the Village. It was determined that the Committee can develop a survey to add to the next version of the Action on the Hill, which is set to be published and distributed in June 2021. It was also determined that such a survey can be posted on the website in the meantime.

It was agreed by consensus that the Committee work to set top priorities and other priorities, and develop and publish a public survey. It was further determined that the survey released in July 2020 can be recycled and reused accordingly.

Chair Van Kroonenburg left the meeting at 2:49pm. In her absence, Clerk and Treasurer Bell acted as interim Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Round table

Clerk and Treasurer Bell opened the floor for a round table discussion. Committee member Andrew presented a letter, including accessibility improvement suggestions for the Committee, including setting goals to make the Village open to all, physically and otherwise; set protocol for employment, committee membership, infrastructure, local businesses, and outer spaces accessible to all; and establishing a list and method to reach those in the community who have had their path blocked in the past, who now do not seek a path to inclusion.

The Committee discussed.

The Committee thanked Committee member Andrew for his passion and advocacy. He further explained how accessibility is indeed necessary and that the Committee can help the Village to move forward to defeat barriers for all.

It was questioned whether there is a means to engage private sectors within the Village to help those businesses to strive for more accessible facilities. It was noted that there is Nova Scotia grant funding available to businesses working to make accessible improvements, and that the Village could promote the availability of these grants. Committee member Flemming offered her assistance with completing paperwork for such grants and businesses accordingly, to aid in replacing the barrier that can come with the paperwork of such grants. Bell added that this is a question we could add to the public survey – whether businesses are aware of such grants, and whether they need support with such applications.

Next meeting date

Clerk and Treasurer Bell explained that the next meeting set by policy is set for the third Wednesday of June, which is June 16, 2021, at 2:00pm and asked the Committee whether there was any reason that the Committee

felt an additional meeting date was necessary prior to that time. Bell further noted that as per the earlier motion, the meeting time will likely be changed from the third Wednesday in June at 2:00pm to the third Thursday in June at 3:30pm, which would fall on June 17, 2021 at 3:30pm. Bell noted that once the Commission reviews the Committee's request, he will reach out to the Committee to inform them of the next meeting date accordingly. The Committee agreed by consensus that June 16 at 2:00pm, or the updated date of June 17 at 3:30pm will be the next meeting date.

Adjournment

Moved by Andrew that the February 17, 2021 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:03pm.

Chair Van Kroonenburg

Recording Secretary Chandler


