

**MUNICIPALITY OF CUMBERLAND**  
**Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Notes**  
**Wednesday, May 1, 2024, 9:30-10:30am**  
**Online – MS Teams**

**Present:** Stephanie Keilhack (Chair), Amanda Purdy (Vice-Chair), Maggie Pitts (Acting Secretary), Catherine Aquino Russell, Andrea Meekins, Lisa Betts

**Regrets:** Melanie Prendergast (Secretary), Darrell Fagan, Peter McCracken, Helen Sims, David MacEwan

**Guests:** Sandra Stephenson (Public attendee)

**1. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:41am (technology issue).

**2. Approval of Agenda:**

Moved by Maggie Pitts, seconded by Catherine Aquino Russell to approve the agenda as circulated with the addition of 6.a Feedback by public attendee Sandra Stephenson.

**3. Approval of the Minutes**

Moved by Andrea Meekins, seconded by Catherine Aquino Russell.

**4. Review of Action Items**

Action items were reviewed, and status updated.

Stephanie described TTY with feedback on it from Catherine, and Maggie described civic sign requirements.

**5. New Business**

a. Re-election: Chair

Stephanie explained that it would be better to have a non-staff member as chair. She would still be organizing the meetings, so chairing would not be much work. No nominations were made, so Stephanie will talk to Peter about next steps.

b. Joint Accessibility Plan 2025 Revision – second session (Built Environment)

Minor “Plain Language” edits for won’t be brought to committee.

Grant program: Stephanie asked if accessibility grants should be instated (such as

Wolfville has).

Some remarks were made in the document:

A suggestion was made for a walking track around the Springhill Community Centre. Maggie noted one exists, but perhaps accessibility improvements such as lighting/surface/signage for at least a looped portion of the trail could be considered along with sidewalk improvements.

It was suggested civic address signs could be made larger for improved visibility. We will continue with current standardized signage and signage bylaw but provide residents better information on proper posting of addresses for better visibility (distance from road, height).

It was remarked that a staff member could be trained in Rick Hansen accessibility training, but we do have a staff member with the training (former committee member David Buell).

The document will be open for ongoing feedback and proposed edits.

## 6. Other

- a. Feedback from public attendee Sandra Stephenson

Crosswalks should be better marked.

Pedestrian safety declines when tourists arrive. Is there a way to communicate pedestrian rights to aggressive drivers?

Grants for businesses should be to be used as the business wishes, for accessibility or to make the building look better. Stephanie believes there are general grants for businesses, but maybe they are non-profits. She will talk to Peter.

The tax rate for commercial properties is too high and discourages business owners from maintaining or improving their properties, and they are deteriorating.

Household battery collection should be organized. Stephanie will connect Sandra with someone.

A triangular cemetery property next to the Art Lab is not being maintained.

## 7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:19 am.

<u>Action</u>	<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Completed/ In Progress/ Ongoing</u>
1. Investigate and implement a better solution for audio issues in virtual meetings.	March 6, 2024	Stephanie	In Progress
2. Complete the report on the Plan by March 31st	March 6, 2024	Stephanie	In Progress

3. Review the report and send notes if they have any, using the digital editable document Stephanie shared.	March 6, 2024	Committee	Done
4. Coordinate invitation to meetings and agenda being sent to Public two weeks prior to meetings.	March 6, 2024	Stephanie	Ongoing
5. Investigate different monthly locations for meetings.	March 6, 2024	Stephanie	Done
6. Share Plan Report with Council.	April 3, 2024	Stephanie	Done
7. Share Plan Report with the public.		Stephanie	In Progress
8. Look into the existing requirements regarding civic signs.	April 3, 2024	Maggie	Done
9. Reach out to the Communications officer to discuss inclusion of the customer service email on Accessible Cumberland.	April 3, 2024	Stephanie	Done
10. Look into the use of TTY.	April 3, 2024	Stephanie	Done