

A regular meeting of the Middleton Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) was held at the Town Hall on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, starting at 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Chairing the meeting, John Smith; Members Kris Stojic, Elizabeth Mason-Squires (Virtual) Dianne McDonald; Councillor Michael Fairn, Active Living Coordinator, Lisa Fenton; and Recording Secretary, Sara Marceau.

Regrets: Chief Administrative Officer, Ashley Crocker, Director of Recreation and Community Development, Andy Kerr, Katrina Kellough.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 2:22 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

240507.01 It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as circulated. **Motion carried.**

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – April 9, 2024

240507.02 It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of April 9, 2024, as circulated. **Motion carried.**

- Note: Hutchins Pharmacy, not Hutchinsons in April 9th minutes.

4. OLD BUSINESS – ACCESSIBILITY AWARENESS WEEK

- Accessibility Awareness Day is June 2nd in Bridgetown from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at Bridgetown High School.
- MPAL Fenton created a poster for Accessibility Awareness Day on June 2nd. If more partners would like to partake in the event, the poster will change due to more joining.
- MPAL Fenton secured Mini Hearts Ranch, miniature ponies.
- Rotary Club of Middleton hasn't submitted a request. If they choose, they can set up a table to promote material they've already done for Accessibility.
- Councillor Fairn will add to this the meeting agenda for the Rotary Club of Middleton's next meeting. Chair Smith will send a reminder to Councillor Fairn.

- MPAL Fenton to update the Accessibility Awareness Day Partner's list to say Annapolis County Accessibility Advisory Committee.
- Discussion around volunteers for June 2nd.
- MPAL Fenton will email a poster and partner list to schools and committee members.
- Recommended by committee to wear red.
- Brief discussion around environmental concerns around disposal of balloons. Please avoid latex.
- Flag raising Ceremony on Monday, May 27th at 10:00 am.
- MPAL Fenton will email Nancy Illsley, principal of Annapolis East Elementary School regarding students attending, along with sending the kid's coloring contest details.
- Elizabeth brough forward information about the Autism group. The Autism group could set up a table and people would have the experience to feel what sensory overwhelm feels like.
- Elizabeth to send Sandy, John's personal email.
- Discussion around Pharmasave in Bridgetown attending. MPAL Fenton reached out to the Bridgetown Pharmasave and hasn't received a response.

5. BUDGET DISCUSSIONS 2024-25

- Chair Smith suggested increasing the budget to \$25,000.

240507.03 It was moved and seconded to approve increasing the budget for 2024-25.
Motion carried.

- Intentions for the playground with a multi-year budget.
- Discussion around The Accessibility Awareness Committee asking for an additional \$5,000 for educational operating funding.
 - \$2,500 for Education, resources, and professional development.
 - \$2,500 to be used for capital projects, community events, and hosting awareness days.

240507.04 It was moved and seconded to approve the request for additional operating funds. **Motion carried.**

- Councillor Fairn suggested doing a presentation and Request for Decision (RFD) to Council at the May 21st Council meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS – AUDIT TOOL


- Discussion around the Audit Tool. MPAL Fenton stated it was more complex and more detailed. The committee would like to invite Julie Glaser from the Association of Municipal Administrators NS (AMANS) to come and do an audit at Town Hall and if there is time an audit at one of the park’s washrooms.
- MPAL Fenton attended a webinar on signage and the new disabled signs. MPAL Fenton will send the webinar presentation to the committee.

7. ANYTHING BY MEMBERS

- Diane brought forward the idea of recognizing members in our community who are making efforts to improve or adding new things for accessibility needs.
- MPAL Fenton suggested putting a survey on the Town’s website with five (5) questions around what characteristics make an accessible business then sharing the positive feedback with the businesses.
- Diane brought up environmental concerns around asphalt at the playground. A suggestion was made of having someone from the Nova Scotia Department of Environment or a nonprofit group to come inspect the playground area before adding the rubber material.
- Councillor Fairn to investigate consumer reports to see if there is anything of this nature in there.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.


Chair


Recording Secretary