

A regular meeting of the Middleton Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) was held at the Town Hall on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, starting at 2:00pm.

PRESENT

Chairing the meeting, John Smith; Members Katrina Kellough, Kris Stojic, Elizabeth Mason-Squires (Virtual) Dianne McDonald; Councillor Dan Smith, Active Living Coordinator, Lisa Fenton, Chief Administrative Officer, Ashley Crocker, Director of Public Works, Adam Verran and Recording Secretary, Sara Marceau

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 2:07pm.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

250114.01 It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as amended. **Motion carried.**

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – November 12, 2024

250114.02 It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of September 10, 2024, as circulated. **Motion carried.**

4. ELECTION OF CHAIR

CAO Crocker called for nominations and John Smith was nominated and accepted the nomination.

- CAO Crocker called for nominations a 2nd time and there were no nominations
- CAO Crocker called for nominations a 3rd time and there were no nominations
- John Smith was acclaimed as Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

5. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Chair Smith called for nominations and Kris Stojic was nominated and accepted the nomination.

- Chair Smith called for nominations a 2nd time and there were no nominations
- Chair Smith called for nominations a 3rd time and there were no nominations
- Kris Stojic was acclaimed as Vice Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Update on the IDEA Committee and Terms of Reference

CAO Crocker gave an update on the IDEA Committee and Terms of Reference.

- CAO Crocker suggested that the Chair and Vice Chair create a list of outstanding items to ensure they are not overlooked, which can then be presented at the first IDEA Committee meeting.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) members asked several questions of CAO Crocker, who gave the following information to the committee:

- There will still be budget recommendations made to each municipal unit
- The Governance Committee consists of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Warden, and Deputy Warden from each municipality.

Dianne McDonald expressed concern that Middleton might not be heard by the County, viewing this as a complementary issue.

Chair Smith expressed concern about the lack of criteria for Indigenous, African Nova Scotian and 2SLGBTQIA+.

6.2 Update on Accessibility Budget

- The committee made the following recommendations and suggestions to staff:
 - That new accessible parking spaces be located on the side of the Credit Union, near the Salvation Army, Subway, and the Dollar Store
 - That the Cinnamon Creek parking lot should be repainted to refresh the markings
 - That new accessible parking signs be ordered
 - That information will be distributed to inform the public that not all accessibility features are visible (via town newsletter, Facebook, etc.)
 - That fluorescent tape be added to the crosswalk posts to create better visibility

ACTION: DPW Verran will follow up with the contractor regarding the front counter.

6.3 Update on Accessibility Parking and Master Transportation Plan

CAO Crocker stated she will have to have the master transportation represented to the new Council.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Master Transportation Plan Recommendations

CAO Crocker stated it needs to go back to the new Council and have a more targeted list of what could be done.

7.2 Transition Plan: AAC to IDEA Committee

CAO Crocker provided an update on this previously.

7.3 2025/2026 Budget (Capital and Operating)

CAO Crocker gave a brief update on the 2025/2026 Budget (Capital and Operating)

The AAC members held a discussion on the 2025/2026 Budget and proposed organizing a playground fundraiser, along with the possibility of securing sponsorship for a piece of playground equipment.

ACTION: DPW Verran has obtained pricing for an accessible playground at Centennial and Rotary Park.

- MPAL Fenton reviewed a list of completed items which include the following:
 - New sidewalks have been installed on parts of Main Street, Gates, and Church, and high spots have been ground down on sidewalks along Main and Commercial Streets. Bricks on Commercial Street were replaced with concrete, and new accessible picnic tables and pathways were added at Centennial Park. The Accessibility Facebook Page and the Middleton Neighbors Helping Neighbors Facebook Group were both created to foster community engagement.
 - A pool lift was installed, and an evacuation chair was placed upstairs by the fire escape in Town Hall to assist with evacuations for those with mobility challenges. Three additional benches were installed at Rotary Park, with one more added by the trail, and six more benches were placed throughout the town. A new pathway to the basketball court at Rotary Park was also completed.
 - A quote to lower the front counter in Town Hall has been finalized, with work expected to be completed by the end of the fiscal year. Some doorknobs in Town Hall have been changed, with eight more still needing replacement. Lastly, three Accessibility Weeks were hosted in 2021, 2022, and 2024, in partnership with the local Accessibility Advisor Committees, offering educational opportunities

for the community. Two of these events featured larger Accessibility Awareness Days in Bridgetown, which included a gathering of community partners from the Valley

8. **ANYTHING BY MEMBERS**

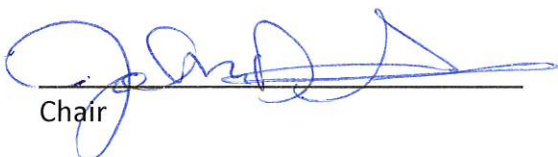
Katrina Kellough has applied to join the new IDEA Committee.

9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday January 28, 2025 at 2:00pm.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11pm.


Chair


Recording Secretary