

**MUNICIPALITY OF CUMBERLAND**  
**Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Notes**  
**Monday, June 1, 2020**

**Present:** Maggie Pitts, Vicki Weaver, Brenda Moore, Melanie Prendergast, Lisa Betts, David Buell, Alicia McInnes, Catherine Aquino Russell, Joanne Hopper, Helen Sims

**Regrets:** Peter Cottingham, Jacqueline Young, Leisa Babineau, Bonnie Langille

**1. Approval of Agenda:**

Approved as circulated.

**2. Approval of Meeting Notes from May 11, 2020:**

Approved as circulated.

**3. Welcome Volunteer Members and Introductions:**

Introductions were made.

**4. Accessibility Act Key Requirements:**

**Main Requirement:** Establish Committee (complete)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Requirement:** Develop an Accessibility plan within one year. Due to COVID, a new deadline will be issued by the Province to allow more time for completion. This plan will include a 3-year plan identifying these different areas: Built Environment, Information and Communication, Employment, Goods and Services as well as Transportation.

**5. Accessibility Planning Overview:**

The Province provided an excellent example of a Plan which is the “Wolfville: Access by Design, An Accessibility Plan for 2019-2022”. The Committee likes the format, size and simplicity of it and would like to use it as a guide.

**6. Accessibility Survey:**

The Accessibility Survey was reviewed. 37 responses have been received so far and the Committee is encouraged to share the survey as it will be open indefinitely. However, there may be another one in the future to gauge progress.

Sidewalks came out as the top issue. For example, the need for a sidewalk between Amherst and the hospital was mentioned. This has been visited by Council before and would involve major costs to the overpass above that section in addition to sidewalk costs. While it may be possible to fix or create sidewalks in some areas, it is not feasible to do so in the rest of the County. It was suggested that we could try to come up with other solutions that would be simpler such as joining forces with our local organizations, such as

Cumberland County Transportation Services, to allow for more transport to and from the hospital instead. Another example would be more plowing of existing sidewalks in areas identified as needing more attention. A rating system on conditions of roads that Public Works could do to identify barriers was also suggested.

The full details of the survey will be shared in Word format by Maggie before the next meeting.

**7. Accessibility Advisory Committee Terms of Reference:**

The Committee was asked to review the Terms of Reference and to share any suggestions for them at the next meeting, as well as to read the other documents that were shared.

**8. Next meeting:**

Date to be determined, but it will most likely be in 3-4 weeks in a Zoom meeting.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 3:10pm.