



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY IN HRM  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MINUTES  
February 22, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Victoria Levack, Chair  
Jacki Purcell  
Councillor Deagle Gammon  
Councillor Paul Russell  
Elizabeth Doull  
Nicole MacDonald  
Aja Joshi

**REGRETS:** Leslie Gates  
Andrew Taylor, Vice Chair  
Samantha Horne

**STAFF:** Haruka Aoyama, Legislative Assistant  
Annie Sherry, Legislative Assistant  
Alicia Wall, Legislative Support

*The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.*

*The agenda, reports, supporting documents, and information items circulated are online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca).*

*The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m., and the Committee adjourned at 5:35 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 17, 2020**

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Jacki Purcell

**THAT the minutes of December 17, 2020 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

**THAT the agenda be approved as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE**

**5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS - NONE**

**6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**

**7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**7.1 Correspondence**

Correspondence was received from the Nova Scotia Accessibility Directorate, Dawn Stegan, Carla Bezanson and circulated to the Committee.

The Committee discussed the correspondence received. With respect to the correspondence regarding: call for proposals for the advancing accessibility, Councillor Deagle Gammon volunteered to contact post-secondary institutions/universities to see if there is an appetite for proposals and will report back to the Committee.

The Committee further noted the following points of interest with respect to advancing accessibility:

- Aids should be provided by employers to allow for equal opportunities;
- Closing institutions;
- More support in schools; and
- A universal definition for “persons with disabilities”.

**7.2 Petitions - None**

**7.3 Delegations - None**

**8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE**

**9. REPORTS**

**9.1 STAFF**

**9.1.1 Halifax Complete Streets Guidelines (Red Book) Review**

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff handout (A, B and C)
- A staff presentation entitled 'Halifax Complete Streets Guidelines Update'

Shannon O'Connell, Development Engineer, Planning & Development presented to the Committee. The most recent guidelines were published in 2013, and they are being updated to prioritize things such as safety, traffic calming and all road users rather than just vehicles. The guidelines are used by HRM internally as well as developers, contractors and engineers, etc. The complete streets approach is one of the biggest changes.

Accessibility standards are taken from the *Accessibility Act*, Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification, Transportation Association of Canada, Canadian Standards Association and the National Association of Transportation Officials. Developers must consider the following with new developments:

- network of bikeways
- multi-use paths
- future bus routes
- pedestrian connections; and
- all ages and abilities.

Another change noted was with respect to street grades. The maximum street grade is being changed to 8% from 10%-12%. A copy of the staff presentation is on file.

Members noted the importance of making sure intersections are clear of things such as bushes, signs, etc. in order to clearly see oncoming traffic and asked if there is any criteria for islands/boulevards.

Staff noted the criteria for islands/boulevards can be found in the Redbook under the right of way section.

### **9.1.2 Annual Town Hall**

The Committee noted for safety reasons, the town hall should be held virtually should it go ahead.

Further discussions regarding this will take place at a later date.

### **9.1.3 2021 Work Plan**

The Legislative Assistant will provide previously discussed information to the Committee in order to help develop the work plan.

## **9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS UPDATE**

### **9.2.1 Speech Transfer System – Correspondence dated December 14, 2020 by Dr. Janine Verge (Accessible Hearing Solutions)**

The following was before the Committee:

- Correspondence from Janine Verge

The Legislative Assistant provided a brief summary of the correspondence.

The Committee noted they would like to have a presentation regarding the speech transfer system. They would like to see what would be needed to implement this and get an idea of the cost.

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Jacki Purcell

**THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee direct the Legislative Assistant to contact Dr. Verge and request a presentation to the committee.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – March 22, 2021**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Alicia Wall  
Legislative Assistant