



**ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
DRAFT MINUTES  
January 15, 2024**

**PRESENT:** Andrew Taylor, Chair  
June Feswick, Vice Chair  
Councillor Trish Purdy  
April Adams  
Elizabeth Doull  
Rachele Manett

**REGRETS:** Deputy Mayor Cathy Deagle Gammon  
Councillor Paul Russell – Leave of Absence  
Michelle Mahoney  
Kristen Hemming  
Jordan Waterbury

**STAFF:** Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor, Office of Diversity & Inclusion/ANSAIO  
Annie Sherry, Legislative Assistant

*These minutes are considered draft and will require approval by the Accessibility Advisory Committee at a future meeting.*

*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).*

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*The meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m. and the Committee adjourned at 4:31 p.m.*

## **1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 15, 2023, and November 21, 2023**

MOVED by Rachele Manett, seconded by Councillor Purdy

**THAT the minutes of November 15, 2023, and November 21, 2023 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by June Feswick, seconded by Rachele Manett

**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 – None**

**7.2 Petitions – None**

**7.3 Presentation – None**

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

## **9. REPORTS**

### **9.1 STAFF**

#### **9.1.1 2023 Town Hall Debrief**

The Committee reflected on the 2023 Town Hall and shared the following perspectives:

- Overall, the event was a positive experience and the virtual-and-in-person format worked well.
- There was confusion in the room during the switch between the panel and open floor session that led to less engagement in the open floor session. The transition could have been made smoother by communicating that people should remain seated or by taking a break between these sessions. This should be explored for the 2024 event.
- Having a panelist speak to Access-A-Bus was useful, but there should be more representation from Halifax Transit at future events because there were many questions about transit that could not be answered during the event. There could also be a role at the Town Hall for a staff or Committee member from the Active Transportation Advisory Committee, and for someone who could speak to Extra Care Taxis.

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**Accessibility Advisory Committee  
Draft Minutes  
January 15, 2024**

- There were questions that could not be answered by Halifax Regional Municipality staff because they were outside of municipal jurisdiction and having staff representatives from the Government of Nova Scotia should be prioritized for future events. If representatives from the province are not able to attend, they should be asked to provide printed resources that could be handed out at the Town Hall.
- Having food at the event was a positive addition. The food was appreciated by attendees and Committee members and should be continued for future events, but maybe with a smaller amount of food.
- Questions facilitated from online and in-person worked well for the flow of the event.
- The framing and visibility of the ASL interpreters in Zoom was improved from the 2022 event.
- The event seemed shorter than previous years, but people still seemed to have questions. Members questioned whether more information should be provided on each topic, or should people have more time to ask their questions

**9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS – NONE**

**9.3 STAFF UPDATES – NONE**

**10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – February 26, 2024**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Annie Sherry  
Legislative Assistant