



**ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 12, 2025**

PRESENT: Céline Vautour, Chair
Rachele Manett, Vice Chair
Councillor Laura White
Councillor Jean St-Amand
Glenn Babcock
Oliver Keith
Anne Sinclair
Jamil Sinno
Cathi Stevenson

REGRETS: Councillor Trish Purdy
Nikolas Harris

STAFF: Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor
Laura Bain, Accessibility Coordinator
Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant

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.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:08 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 – April 14, 2025

MOVED by Councillor St-Amand, seconded by Jamil Sinno

THAT the minutes of April 14, 2025 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

As provided for in section 37 (1) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, Rachele Manett requested that Item 9.1.1 – Discussion of 2025 Town Hall be considered prior to Item 7.3.1.

MOVED by Councillor St-Amand, seconded by Rachele Manett

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

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

7.3.1 Treat Accessibly – Rich Padulo and Siena Padulo

The following was before the Committee:

- Request for presentation dated May 6, 2025
- Presentation dated May 12, 2025

Rich Padulo, Founder, Treat Accessibly and Siena Padulo, Founder, Treat Accessibly gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor White, seconded by Councillor St-Amand

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that the Executive Standing Committee request a staff report to consider recognizing October 16 annually as Treat Accessibility Day as part of the Treat Accessibly initiative.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Discussion of 2025 Town Hall

The following was before the Committee:

- Handout dated May 12, 2025

The Committee discussed the upcoming November 5, 2025 Town Hall and requested the following Halifax Regional Municipality Business Units be represented on the panel:

- Office of Diversity & Inclusion/African Nova Scotian Affairs Integration Office of the Chief Administrative Office;
- Halifax Transit with a focus on Transit Fleet, service hours, accessibility training and Access-A-Bus;
- Community Safety with a focus on Housing & Homelessness, Food Security and public safety;
- Customer Contact Centres/311 of Finance & Asset Management;
- Public Works with a focus on accessibility standards, Design & Construction Services and Infrastructure Maintenance & Operations; and
- Planning & Development.

The Committee requested that the 2025 Town Hall be a hybrid event.

Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor, Laura Bain, Accessibility Coordinator, Mairead Barry, Director of Strategy, Halifax Public Libraries and Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – June 16, 2025

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Elizabeth Macdonald
Legislative Assistant