

## **ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**November 2, 2023**

**Location:** Virtual Meeting via Zoom

**Present:** Warden Amanda Mombourquette, Allison Martell, Shannon Mury, Shelly Dorey, Chantal Boudreau, Councilor Michael Diggdon, Esther McDonnell, Meghan Hayter, Jessica MacDougall and Danielle Martell

**Absent:** Kelly Hibbert, Ashley Lavandier, and Natalie Groom

**Quorum Present** – Yes

Warden Amanda Mombourquette called the meeting to order at 4:15 pm

### **Items Added to the Agenda (Approval of Agenda):**

- Canada Summer Jobs initiative

*Moved by Shelly Dorey, seconded by Michael Diggdon, that the agenda with additions be approved. **Motion carried.***

### **Review of Minutes Re: October 12, 2023 Meeting :**

No errors or omissions noted for the October 12, 2023 In Person Meeting .

*Moved by Danielle Martell, seconded by Jessica MacDougall that the minutes be approved as presented. **Motion carried.***

### **Acting Priorities on Plan**

- The municipality continues to work towards their Rick Hansen certification goals. They continue to work on necessary upgrades, and it is their hope to obtain the gold standard certification when completed at the administrative building in Arichat.
- Enabling Accessibility Fund Call – Allison Martell and Daneille Martell both plan to attend the call.
- Village – have not started working on their buildings as of yet, but once they start, they will be focusing on the community hub.

### **Accessibility Week Discussion**

- We should start planning activities for 2024.
- Shannon reached out to Jacqueline and the YMCA to see about the possibility of Richmond County hosting the award ceremonies again next year. They did not seem opposed to the idea. At this point, we can stay tuned for further updates to see if we will be selected again to host.

### **Community Outreach Discussion**

- Danielle and Allison attended the Volunteer Fair on October 19, 2023 at the St. Peter's Lions Hall. There was a good turnout of volunteers, but the turnout of external people was quite low. Warden Mombourquette said that she had spoken with some people, and they did not realize that the Volunteer Fair was open to the public. Despite the lower-than-expected turnout, it was a positive networking experience for the organizations in attendance. People in attendance were impressed to hear that we have an Accessibility Committee in place in the county. One notable organization that was presented was the "ReNest Organization" whose mandate is helping families in need obtain decent used furniture.

### **Update on Action Items list**

- Discussion on the Living Library project with Telile. It is definitely still something that we want to consider. Chantal said we have to find people who are willing to tell their stories.
- The committee should try and find people before the December Meeting who would be willing to share their first voice stories.
- Business Survey – Danielle is going to create a draft business survey for the next meeting. She and Warden Mombourquette will review the draft together.

### **Committee Memberships**

- Still continues to be a challenge.
- If we are able to get some people to share their stories, they may also want to consider joining the committee.

### **Summer Jobs Initiative**

- Canada Summer Jobs Initiative will open November 20, 2023. General discussion regarding the program. We questioned whether or not we would have enough work at this time for a summer position, If yes 1) Who would apply for the position and 2) What would the summer worker do?
- Integrated Learning at NSCC – Danielle will contact and follow up with a general inquiry at this point. Discussion that Administrative students who have strong communication skills might be a good fit to work with the committee in the future.

### **Next meeting**

- Our next meeting will be a virtual meeting on Thursday December 7, 2023 at 4:15 pm.

### **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm, by Warden Amanda Mombourquette.