

ATTENDING

Councillor Johanna Kwakernaak, Chair

Elaine Furniss, Co-Chair

Mike Trinacty, Mayor

Councillor Chris Goddard

Katie Verrette, Community Development Manager (Via Teams)

Crystal McCormack, Citizen Representative

Reta Shay, Citizen Representative

Kenisha Gordon, Citizen Representative (Via Teams)

Jordan Hebb, ALC Coordinator

Taylor Boylan, Recreation Coordinator

Recording Secretary Roger Flynn, Office Administrative Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

a. IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE AGENDA OF THE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF BE APPROVED **AS CIRCULATED.**

Motion Carried

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a. IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF

BE APPROVED **AS CIRCULATED**/AMENDED.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a) Introductions:

Members introduced themselves and shared accessibility issues important to them, including:

- Wheelchair accessibility
- Crosswalk safety
- Inclusive community programs
- LGBTQ+ inclusion
- Socioeconomic diversity
- Visual impairment support
- Improved communications
- A community feedback or digital portal on the Town website

B) Discussion: Inclusion, Equity, and Diversity (IED) in Committee Work.

- Suggested holding quarterly community sharing circles with 8–12 participants
- Staff are applying for a grant to support the community sharing circles
- Valley REN's newcomer programs will be a valuable asset for building community sharing circles

c) Grant Opportunities – Review and Relevance

- Committee input on funding priorities encouraged

- Noted that path upgrades are funded, gazebo upgrades are a capital budget item, and accessibility improvements are in the five year capital plan for the Town of Berwick

d) Committee Engagement and Relationship Building

On-going work at the committee level to build internal connections and engage the public.

e) Committee Report

- The report will focus on diversity themes
- Suggested organizing a "Diversity Dinner" in September

f) Berwick Core AT Network – Phase 2 Kick Off

- Engagement Events:
Thursday, June 5 – Open House
6:00 PM – 8:30 PM
Berwick & District Public Library - 236 Commercial St, Berwick

Friday, June 6 – Pop-Up Engagement
5:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Rainforth Park - 205 Cottage St, Berwick

Saturday, June 7 – Pop-Up Engagement
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Berwick & District Public Library - 236 Commercial St, Berwick

g) Access Awareness Week

- Access Awareness Week in Nova Scotia is May 25th to May 31st. More information on AAW can be found at <https://nsleo.com/access-awareness-week-nova-scotia/>

h) Accessibility Report Card

- Suggested modeling the report after Richmond's straightforward layout, including action items with "Completed" or "In Progress" labels

Notable mentions

- Lighting improvement needed at the intersection of Margeson and Maple was noted; suggested Berwick Electric investigate solutions for placing a streetlight. Roger has contacted the Berwick Electric Commission regarding this.

5. The next regular meeting will be held on Sept. 22nd, 2025, 6:00pm.

6. ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE REGULAR MEETING
OF ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE BE ADJOURNED at 7:28 pm.

Approved by Committee on Month Day, 2025

As recorded by Roger Flynn, Office Administrative Coordinator