

**Nova Scotia Accessibility Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, July 13, 2021 – 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting by Zoom

Attendance: Rosalind Penfound (Chair), David Caswell (Vice-Chair), Linda Campbell, Birgit Elssner, Andrew Jantzen, Ellen Johnson, Jenny-Rachel Lind, Marcie Shwery-Stanley, Anne Sinclair

Regrets: Cynthia Bruce

Staff: Dawn Stegen (Interim Executive Director), Terri Lynn Almeda (Manager), Julie Henao-Murillo (MPA Summer Student), Caroline Read Kendall

Guests: Laurie Cranton (Chair, Built Environment Standard Development Committee), Frank Dunn (Consultant, Built Environment), Ramzi Kawar (Vice-Chair) Built Environment Standard Development Committee)

1. Welcome

Rosalind Penfound, Chair, welcomed everyone to the Accessibility Advisory Board meeting with a Mi'kmaq land acknowledgement and acknowledgement of African Nova Scotian history in Nova Scotia.

2. Board Operations

a. Review of Agenda

The Board reviewed and accepted the agenda as circulated.

b. Approval of Minutes from June 10, 2021

Motion: Birgit Elssner moved to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2021 meeting. Jenny-Rachel Lind seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Consensus Decision Making Model

Rosalind Penfound presented an overview of the consensus decision-making model, previously reviewed during the Board orientation in the spring, to refresh members prior to reviewing the recommendations from the Built Environment Standard Development Committee. The model has been adopted by the Accessibility Advisory Board and the Standard Development Committees as it is more useful in deliberations than using a majority yes/no decision-making model.

d. Standard Development Process

Dawn Stegen presented an overview of the steps involved in the standard development process as well as requirements in the Accessibility Act regarding recommendations on accessibility standards.

3. Recommendations on Accessibility Standards in the Built Environment

a. Presentation and Discussion

Rosalind Penfound introduced Laurie Cranton, Chair, and Ramzi Kawar, Vice-Chair, Built Environment Standard Development Committee. Laurie and Ramzi presented the committee's recommendations on accessibility standards in the built environment, with support from Caroline Read Kendell, Senior Policy Analyst.

Rosalind Penfound acknowledged the Board's appreciation of the committee's work to develop the recommendations. The committee, comprised of 19 community members, the majority of whom are persons with disabilities, has experience across all areas of the built environment, including architects, community planners, engineers, accessibility consultants, and municipal staff.

b. Potential Amendments

The Board provided advice and received clarification regarding a number of recommendation areas, including doors (height of power door operators, opening speed, visual cues, windows), bench/seating width and depth, visual noise, wiring of visual door bells and fire

alarms, parks and recreations (space for service animals, access to water, accessible washrooms at accessible trails), wayfinding (tactile images, raised lettering, standardized signage on washroom doors), and housing (number of accessible units and adaptable units in multi-unit housing).

The Board agreed to continue the discussion on the Phase 2 recommendations on an accessibility standard in the built environment to the next meeting to allow for sufficient time for review and discussion.

The Board also discussed the committee's recommendation regarding implementation of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 recommendations on accessibility standards in the built environment, as some topic areas are covered in both Phase 1 and Phase 2.

c. Decision

Motion: David Caswell moved to advise the Minister of Justice that the Accessibility Advisory Board recommends proceeding with two phases of implementation of an Accessibility Standard in the Built Environment, but with a harmonization of those recommendations in Phase 1 and Phase 2 that fall under the same topic area. Motion was seconded by Ellen Johnson. Motion carried.

4. Next Meeting August 13

Rosalind Penfound advised that in addition to continuing the discussion regarding the Phase 2 recommendations on an accessibility standard in the built environment, there will be time for other agenda items for the August 13, 2021 Board meeting including the Quarterly Monitoring and Evaluation update, and a presentation on the Affordable Housing Commission Report.

5. Adjournment

Rosalind Penfound adjourned the meeting. Next meeting will be on August 13, 2021.