

**TOWN OF AMHERST**  
**Accessibility, Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Committee**  
**Minutes**

**Date:** February 11, 2026  
**Time:** 4:30 pm  
**Location:** Council Chambers, Town Hall

**Members Present** Councillor Kathy Wells, Chair  
Councillor, Hal Davidson, Vice Chair  
Ava Tooley, Youth Town Council Representative  
Clifford Pinchbeck, Citizen Representative  
Jim Prendergast, Citizen Representative  
LJ Barquilla, Citizen Representative  
Tammy Gero, Citizen Representative  
Vanessa Jones, Citizen Representative  
Marina Godfrey, Citizen Representative  
Victoria Vance, Citizen Representative

**Staff Present** Aaron Bourgeois, Director of Operations  
Sharon Bristol, Director, Community Living  
Mallory Klooster, Community Well-Being Manager  
Marc Buske, Building Official  
Lori O'Connell, Marketing & Communications Officer  
Sean Payne, Marketing & Communications Officer  
Natalie LeBlanc, Municipal Clerk  
Cindy Brown, Administrative Assistant

**Others Present** Jason Haughn, Municipal Advisor

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**1. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

**1.1 Territorial Acknowledgement**

The Chair gave the Territorial Acknowledgement.

**1.2 Approval of Agenda**

**Moved By Councillor Davidson**

**Seconded By Vanessa Jones**

**That the agenda be approved as circulated.**

**Motion Carried**

**1.3 Acceptance of Minutes - November 12, 2025**

The Chair called for any errors or omissions in the minutes. There being none, the minutes of the November 12, 2025, meeting of the Accessibility, Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Committee were accepted as included in the agenda package.

## **2. Presentations**

### **2.1 Provincial Human Rights Remedy Presentation - Lindsay Harnish and Lora Church**

Lindsay Harnish and Lora Church gave a presentation via ZOOM on the Nova Scotia Human Rights Remedy, included as part of the agenda package.

Marina Godfrey arrived at 4:35 PM.

Victoria Vance arrived at 4:37 PM.

## **3. Discussion Items**

### **3.1 Built Environment Reviews - Klooster**

Mallory discussed the Built Environment Reviews and explained how the Accessibility Audit Toolkit, which was included in the agenda package, will work. Mallory said that staff plan to start accessibility audits on Town-owned buildings in March.

Vanessa asked why green spaces are not included at this time. Mallory answered that staff want to address the buildings first, and that the Parks Management team did their own assessment and presented it to Council at the November 17, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting. Mallory said that it will be the next step to include both parks and green spaces in the accessibility audit process.

Vanessa suggested that it would be inciteful to have someone with a disability to accompany staff on the accessibility audits to give their own perspective on their challenges and help point out areas of suggested improvements. Mallory agreed. Marina volunteered to participate in the audits, LJ and Vanessa also volunteered.

Councillor Davidson asked why only public spaces at the Police and Fire Departments will be addressed during the accessibility audit process. Marc answered that due to the nature of the work at these facilities, and much like buildings classified as "Industrial Buildings" the areas that are not open to the public are exempt according to the current building code.

Vanessa asked about the Accessibility Audit Toolkit requirement for hallway width and mobility devices. Marc answered that the toolkit is designed to reflect the current building code.

Staff will provide an update to the Committee at the next meeting on the status of the accessibility audits at that time.

## **4. Information Items**

### **4.1 A.I.D.E Strategic Plan Progress to Date**

Information item included as part of the agenda package. If any committee member has any questions, please contact Mallory.

### **4.2 CNIB SnoWay Campaign**

Information item included as part of the agenda package. If any committee member has any questions, please contact Mallory.

## **5. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting was scheduled for May 13, 2026, at 4:30 PM.

LJ requested that agenda packages be sent out to the committee sooner, Clifford agreed. Staff will attempt to accommodate this going forward.

6. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

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Natalie LeBlanc  
Municipal Clerk

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Councillor Kathy Wells  
Chair