



## AMHERST TOWN COUNCIL

RFD# 20230325

Date: March 27, 2023

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**TO:** Mayor Kogon and Members of Amherst Town Council

**SUBMITTED BY:** Natalie LeBlanc, Municipal Clerk

**DATE:** March 27, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Appointments to Town of Amherst Accessibility Advisory Committee

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**ORIGIN:** Our citizen appointments to the Accessibility Advisory Committee expire March 31, 2023.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY:** Accessibility Advisory Committee Policy, #10350-30

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council re-appoint Marina Godfrey, Matthew Medland and Joanne Hopper to the Accessibility Advisory Committee for two-year terms effective April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2025.

**BACKGROUND:** Citizen appointments to the Accessibility Advisory Committee expire March 31, 2023. In accordance with the Town of Amherst Accessibility Advisory Committee Policy, there is an ability to appoint six Town of Amherst residents to the committee.

**DISCUSSION:** The Committee plays a pivotal role in helping the Town of Amherst become a barrier-free community and ensuring obligations under An Act Respecting Accessibility in Nova Scotia (2017) are met, and to assist in creating a community of wellbeing.

Following the call for expressions of interest we received three applications from current members who would like to reoffer, Marina Godfrey, Matthew Medland and Joanne Hopper. The terms of reference state that according to the Act, at least half of the committee membership must be people with disabilities or represent organizations that represent people with disabilities with preference for the former, reappointing these three members will fill this requirement.

Now that the Accessibility Strategy has been approved and work has begun, staff feel that with 2 Council appointees and 3 citizen appointees we are able to continue the work, with the potential to recruit additional committee members.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:** There are no financial implications to appointing members as they are volunteers.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** An ad appeared in the Cumberland Wire on February 15, 2023. Expressions of interest were also solicited through Town of Amherst social media, with a deadline of March 6.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS:** No direct environmental implications.



**ALTERNATIVES:** Delay this appointment and continue to solicit expressions of interest; however not reappointing these members will leave this Committee with no citizen representation.

**ATTACHMENTS:** 10350-30 Town of Amherst Accessibility Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

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Report prepared by: Natalie LeBlanc

Report and Financial approved by: