



## AMHERST TOWN COUNCIL

RFD# 2023051

Date: April 24, 2023

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

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

**DATE:** April 24, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Appointment to the Town of Amherst Accessibility Advisory Committee

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

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

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council appoint Jim Prendergast to the Accessibility Advisory Committee effective April 24, 2023 to March 31, 2025.

**BACKGROUND:** In accordance with the Town of Amherst Accessibility Advisory Committee Terms of Reference Policy, there is an ability to appoint six Town of Amherst residents to the committee.

When a call for expressions of interest went out, staff received three applications from current members who expressed interest in reoffering. Council re-appointed these three members to two-year terms at their regular meeting on March 27, 2023. Following the deadline for applications, staff received another expression of interest from Mr. Prendergast, attached.

**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. 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, appointing Jim Prendergast will fill this requirement.

Now that the Accessibility Strategy has been approved and work has begun, staff feel that with 2 Council appointees and 4 citizen appointees we are able to continue the work required.

**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, at that time staff received three applications.

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



**SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPLICATIONS:** This Committee will assist staff in their efforts of providing accessible facilities and infrastructure as required by the Act.

**ALTERNATIVES:** Not appoint this applicant and continue to solicit expressions of interest as there is an ability to appoint up to six citizen appointees to the Committee. However, staff feel that appointing this applicant will give the committee a nice compliment of voting members.

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

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Report prepared by: Natalie LeBlanc

Report and Financial approved by: