



# **Region of Queens Municipality Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes**

**March 16, 2026**

**Queens Place Emera Centre**

## MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Roberta Roy, Chair

Councillor Vicki Amirault

Charlene Park, Vice Chair

Sally Tanner, Public Member

Joel Zwicker, Public Member

Natalie Covell, Public Member

Kate Wong, Recording Secretary

Regrets:

Holly McConnell, Staff Liaison

### **1. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

**Moved by Councillor Vicki Amirault, seconded by Elise Johnston;**  
**THAT** the Accessibility Advisory Committee for Region of Queens  
Municipality approve the agenda for March 16, 2026 as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED, unanimously.**

### **3. Adoption of Previous Minutes – February 23, 2026**

**Moved by Charlene Park, seconded by Elise Johnston;**

**THAT** the Accessibility Advisory Committee for Region of Queens adopt the minutes for February 23, 2026 as circulated.

**MOTION CARRIED, unanimously.**

### **4. AMANS Equity, Anti-Racism, and Accessibility Grant**

The Committee discussed the AMANS Equity, Anti-Racism, and Accessibility Grant, noting the upcoming application deadline and the availability of up to \$1,500.00 in funding to support projects aligned with approved municipal plans. Members expressed interest in applying for the grant to support community engagement initiatives as part of implementing the Municipality's Accessibility Plan.

**Moved by Elise Johnston, seconded by Charlene Park;**

**THAT** the Accessibility Advisory Committee for Region of Queens Municipality apply for the AMANS Equity, Anti-Racism, and Accessibility Grant to support community engagement initiatives.

**MOTION CARRIED, unanimously.**

The Committee discussed a proposed approach to community engagement, including hosting approximately four sessions across the municipality at locations such as North Queens Fire Hall, Queens Place Emera Centre, West Queens Community Centre, and Riverbank General Store. It was noted that session timing should be varied, with a focus on evenings to improve accessibility.

Members discussed using a combination of surveys and lived-experience input to gather feedback and identified engagement sessions as an opportunity to promote existing accessibility programs and supports within the Municipality.

The Committee also considered governance implications related to the proposed work. Members noted that applying for the grant and gathering information aligns with the Committee's advisory role and supports the development of recommendations to Council.

During discussion, a member clarified that advisory committees provide recommendations to Council and do not carry out work on behalf of the Municipality, with implementation typically falling to an action team or staff. Based on this distinction, it was noted that associated engagement activities may require Council approval. Members further noted that public-facing activities, including hosting engagement sessions or sharing collected stories or media through municipal channels, may require additional approval. The Committee agreed that staff would be consulted to confirm the appropriate process before proceeding.

## **5. Selection of Actionable Initiative from the Accessibility Plan**

The Committee discussed next steps for advancing actions identified in the Accessibility Plan. Members agreed that community engagement should be treated as the initial priority, as it will provide valuable insight into current barriers and lived experiences within the community.

Members discussed reviewing and updating previous accessibility surveys, including incorporating relevant provincial tools and distributing surveys through community organizations and public outreach efforts to reach a broad audience.

The Committee also discussed the importance of promoting existing accessibility supports and infrastructure, noting that increased awareness of available resources could have an immediate positive impact for residents.

It was agreed that the Committee will pause the selection of additional actionable items until community engagement has been completed and further information has been gathered.

## **6. Round Table**

Members shared updates and observations related to accessibility within the community, including the importance of practical and responsive design, as well as the value of lived-experience perspectives in informing municipal decisions.

A member provided an update regarding a potential School Use Agreement between the Municipality and the South Shore Regional Centre for Education

(SSCRE), noting that a meeting is scheduled to take place in April. Members recognized that this may create additional opportunities for accessible community programming.

Additional discussion highlighted ongoing accessibility and safety considerations in municipal spaces, including park design and pedestrian access. Members emphasized the importance of continued awareness and advocacy in addressing accessibility barriers.

## **7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.