



Region of Queens Municipality - Accessibility Advisory Committee

Monday, May 25, 2026

6:00 p.m

Minutes

Present:

Scott Christian, Mayor

Councillor Roberta Roy, Chair

Holly McConnell, Staff Liaison

Sally Tanner, Public Member

Joel Zwicker, Public Member

Elise Johnston, Public Member

Richard Lane, Project Manager

Peter Lavender, Guest Presenter

Vinal Smith, Guest Presenter

Kate Wong, Recording Secretary

Regrets:

Councillor Vicki Amirault

Natalie Covell, Public Member

Charlene Park, Public Member

1.0 Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

The following additions were added to the agenda:

- Pine Grove Park
- Tesla Charging Station
- Update regarding recruitment of the Accessibility Coordinator

Moved by Joel Zwicker, seconded by Sally Tanner;

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee for Region of Queens Municipality approve the agenda for May 25, 2026, as amended.

MOTION CARRIED.

Committee members confirmed quorum was present. It was clarified that the Mayor attends Committees of Council as an ex officio voting member and does not count toward quorum.

3.0 Adoption of Minutes

3.1 Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes – March 16, 2026

Moved by Joel Zwicker, seconded by Sally Tanner;

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee approve the March 16, 2026 meeting minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

4.0 Pine Grove Park

Representatives from the Nova Scotia Guides Association attended to discuss an accessibility initiative proposed for Pine Grove Park. The project would focus on improving access to the pond area for individuals with mobility challenges

and disabilities. Discussion included expanding the secondary entrance road into the park, creating accessible parking spaces, developing an accessible pathway to the shoreline, establishing a flat shoreline fishing area suitable for wheelchairs and mobility devices, and the potential future installation of a floating dock and composting toilet.

Representatives advised that several organizations have expressed support for the initiative, including the Inland Fisheries Division, Nova Scotia Guides Association, Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Ducks Unlimited, and local environmental and community groups.

Members discussed the importance of following proper municipal processes, including Council direction, review of land ownership and restrictions, infrastructure and drainage considerations, procurement requirements, and potential public consultation. Committee members expressed support for the concept and highlighted the benefit the project could provide to residents with disabilities and mobility limitations.

The Community Economic Development Officer, Sal Falk, advised that a staff report regarding the project is scheduled to be presented to Council at the June 9, 2026 Council meeting and that any recommendation from the Committee would be included within the report.

Moved by Elise Johnston, seconded by Sally Tanner;

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee support the Pine Grove Park accessibility project and recommend that the presentation and proposal be brought forward to Council for further consideration.

MOTION CARRIED.

5.0 Tesla Charging Station

Richard Lane, Project Officer for Region of Queens Municipality, provided an overview of the proposed Tesla Supercharger project at Queens Place Emera Centre. Tesla approached the Municipality regarding the installation of eight supercharger stations in Liverpool, with the proposed location selected within the Queens Place parking lot. Mr. Lane advised that Council had previously approved moving forward with the agreement at the May 12, 2026 Council

meeting. Following Council approval, correspondence was received from a resident expressing concerns regarding the proximity of the proposed charging stations to the Universal Play Park.

The primary concerns identified related to the potential reduction in parking availability near the Universal Play Park and possible sensory impacts associated with sound emitted from charging infrastructure and charging vehicles. Committee members discussed the concerns at length, including existing parking availability and usage patterns at Queens Place, ambient noise levels already present within the area from traffic, playground activity, the splash pad, and skate park, and the differing impact that sound frequency and pitch may have on individuals with sensory sensitivities. Members also discussed the challenges associated with managing sound within outdoor public environments and the importance of considering accessibility impacts for individuals with autism and other sensory processing disabilities.

Correspondence received from a concerned resident was read aloud. The resident noted concerns regarding sound sensitivity and parking capacity near the Universal Play Park, particularly during busy summer periods.

Members discussed potential mitigation measures, including retaining or enhancing natural buffers between the charging stations and the play park, the potential construction of berms or sound barriers, gathering further information regarding decibel levels and sound frequency associated with the charging infrastructure, and exploring whether future accessible washroom infrastructure at Queens Place could potentially align with electrical servicing work related to the charging stations.

Committee members discussed the importance of obtaining additional feedback from external organizations, including Autism Nova Scotia and Inclusion Nova Scotia, in order to better understand potential sensory impacts from an accessibility perspective. Joel advised he would contact Autism Nova Scotia to seek additional information and feedback related to sensory accessibility concerns associated with the proposed installation. Sally advised she would also reach out to Inclusion Nova Scotia for additional input.

Discussion also included potential timelines for the project, the possibility of requiring additional Committee discussion or a special meeting, and the

importance of gathering further information before making a formal recommendation regarding the project.

6.0 Update Regarding Recruitment of the Accessibility Coordinator

A brief update was requested regarding recruitment of the Accessibility Coordinator position.

7.0 Terms of Reference

Discussion took place regarding the Accessibility Advisory Committee Terms of Reference. Members clarified that the Terms of Reference had previously been reviewed by the Committee but had not yet been formally presented to Council for approval.

Director McConnell advised that a staff report would be prepared for a future Council meeting seeking formal approval of the Terms of Reference.

8.0 Small Grant Program

Discussion took place regarding the possibility of establishing a small grant program through the Accessibility Advisory Committee similar to the Inclusion Queens Committee program.

Members discussed potential uses for the program, including supporting accessibility-related community initiatives, events, adaptive equipment, and inclusion projects. Examples discussed included accessibility supports for recreational programming, community events, and adaptive recreation equipment.

Staff advised that the feasibility of the program would depend on the Committee's available budget allocation. It was also noted that language authorizing administration of a small grant program would need to be added to the Committee's Terms of Reference and approved by Council.

Moved by Sally Tanner, seconded by Elise Johnston;

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee update the Terms of Reference to include language regarding administration of a small grant program.

MOTION CARRIED.

9.0 Accessibility Survey

Members discussed a previously explored grant opportunity related to an accessibility and community engagement survey initiative. Discussion included the possibility of partnering with the Inclusion Queens Committee on future grant applications and engagement opportunities.

It was noted that the project had previously been delayed due to staffing transitions and timing constraints, but members expressed interest in revisiting the opportunity in the future should funding remain available.

10.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:21pm