



**County
of Huron**

Accessibility Advisory Committee



Minutes - January 27, 2006

GODERICH, ONTARIO

Goderich, Ontario
January 27, 2006

The HURON COUNTY ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE met in the Court House at 9:30 a.m. with all members in attendance except G. McLachlan, Councillor D. Layton, S. Thompson and C.A.O. Larry Adams.

1. Appointment of the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee Chair

Barbara Leamen, County Clerk, called the meeting to order and called for a motion to appoint the Chair.

Rosemary Armstrong nominated Phil Gandon for the position of Chair.

Moved by B. Fischer

Seconded by J. Austin

That Phil Gandon be appointed Chair of the Huron County Accessibility Advisory effective January 27, 2006 to December 7, 2006.

CARRIED

2. Minutes

Moved by L. Falconer

Seconded by B. Fisher

That the minutes of the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of September 16, 2005 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Member Issues / New Business

B. Fisher mentioned that he was concerned about a motion that was made in the previous County Council minutes. He wondered if when they referred to "buildings" they also included walkways, sidewalks etc. This motion was brought from County Council to this committee for information. B. Fisher wondered if this motion could be questioned. Chair P. Gandon responded that he assumes that "in consultation with the committee" would allow the HCAAC committee to determine details. These minutes of September 16, 2005 were adopted by the Session of County Council on November 3, 2005.

4. Accessibility Directorate of Ontario

The Accessibility Directorate of Ontario was recently transferred to the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The regional office of the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration is no longer involved with issues related to the Directorate. If you have an enquiry relating to the AODA, you may send it directly to the Accessibility Directorate via e-mail at accessibility@mci.gov.on.ca or call 1-888-520-5828.

FOR INFORMATION

5. Accessible Parking Spaces

The Huron County Planning Department is working with local Municipalities to review and update their zoning by-laws. One item that is being reviewed is the requirements for parking spaces for individuals with disabilities. The Planning Department would like the Accessibility Committee to provide input on these requirements. Claire Dodds, from the Planning Department led this discussion. Claire distributed a handout called "Proposed Parking Provisions for Zoning By-laws in Huron County" to committee members.

A discussion ensued. A. Gingerich asked where these requirement numbers came from. Claire Dodds responded that it is based on population and that these requirements should likely be looked at again based on population changing. R. Armstrong thought that the problem was not the number of parking spaces but the lack of policing of the spots. D. Koopmans commented that there are not enough parking spots. She also mentioned the inadequacies of the size of the parking spots, the design of them, the curbs in the way, the distance away from the desired destination, the location etc. Claire agreed that the requirements need to be reviewed. D. Koopmans also mentioned that it's not just the parking spots that are the problem, but also, the accessibility of the sidewalks going in to the store (for example); the "cut" curbs are not always so easy to maneuver and it is certainly easier to maneuver a wheelchair if the ground is level. J. Austin also mentioned that for a person who has a vision disability, change in texture on the ground could be helpful. Chair P. Gandon said that the stores in the area are making a better attempt at complying with regulations than they need to and it's still not enough. This indicates that this formula is in definite need of revisal. It was also suggested that the spots not all be the same dimensions. E.g. side-loading vans could have their own parking spots and there should be a charge if someone with a disability sticker used this spot without a side-loading van. J. Austin wanted to know if there was a ratio in municipalities (street parking). Claire indicated that in some municipalities there are special parking lots in addition to parking spaces for vans / vehicles belonging to people with disabilities but that the by-laws need to be reviewed. D. Koopmans says that there are no accessible parking spots on the Square in Goderich. There are too few, they are impossible to get to and there are no "cut" curbs to allow a wheelchair. R. Armstrong also mentioned that even if there are parking spots available, if the snow is not cleared from these spots, they are not usable anyway. The general consensus from the committee is a) there are not enough parking spots and b) that they are not enforced well enough. Claire is prepared to take this information to the appropriate authorities to have these concerns heard.

FOR INFORMATION

6. Correspondence

- a) Ministry of Community and Social Services, Andrea Maurice, Assistant Deputy Minister, received September 26, 2005 regarding new position.
- b) Ministry of Community and Social Services, Sandra Pupatello, Minister, received October 24, 2005 regarding recruitment for a standards development committee regarding customer service and transportation.

FOR INFORMATION

B. Fisher recommended that if correspondence is received between meetings, that it be forwarded to members to allow them to apply for these positions or to volunteer for these positions before the deadlines expire.

It is recommended that when any material received relating to this committee that has specific deadline dates, that it be forwarded to all committee members.

Moved by J. Austin
Seconded by R. Armstrong
That this recommendation be approved.

CARRIED

7. Other Business

B. Fisher contacted the Huron County Highways Department and spoke to Mr. Alcock. He asked Mr. Alcock if the bridge on County Road 12 was accessible. Mr. Fisher was assured that it was. A representative from C.N.I.B. came with Mr. Fisher to have a look at the bridge and has deemed the bridge not accessible. Claire Dodds suggested that this committee prepare a definition of what is accessible and have that information provided to the Highways Department. Chair P. Gandon suggested that this committee bring this matter to the attention of County Council.

Moved by B. Fisher
Seconded by R. Armstrong
That we recognize the concern regarding the recently rebuilt bridge at County Road 12 and County Road 3, Kippen Road, as being not accessible despite requests made prior to the completion of the project that this committee be advised. The committee strongly recommends that it be consulted prior to construction in the future regarding accessibility as set out in Clause No. 2 of the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee: "Advise Councils, within 30 days, on the accessibility for persons with disabilities to a public municipal building prior to purchase, construction, renovation or lease."

CARRIED

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee will be held on Friday, March 10, 2006 at 9:30 a.m., Council Chambers, Court House, Goderich.

9. Adjournment

Moved by R. Armstrong

Seconded by L. Falconer

That the meeting adjourn at 11:08 a.m. and be declared a half day meeting for those in attendance for more than two and half hours.

CARRIED

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Chair