



County
of Huron

Accessibility Advisory Committee



Minutes - April 13, 2006

GODERICH, ONTARIO

Goderich, Ontario
April 13, 2006

The HURON COUNTY ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE met in the Council Chambers, Court House, Goderich at 1:30 p.m. with all members present except Sandra Thompson; B Leamen, Clerk; Claire Dodds, Planning Department.

1. Minutes

Moved by R. Armstrong

Seconded by B. Fisher

That the minutes of the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of January 27, 2006 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

2. Best Practises

The Chair, Phil Gandon, addressed the members on the difficulty that the committee is experiencing in moving forward. The meeting planned for March was cancelled due to lack of agenda's items. Mr. Gandon contacted Mr. Michael Sullivan, Policy Advisor, Accessibility Directorate of Ontario, from the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Mr. Sullivan suggested that the committee review Best Practises of Municipalities across Ontario.

A listing was distributed for review that included the practises of the following Ontario municipalities: Town of Whitby; City of Hamilton; City of Woodstock; City of Stratford; City of Elliot Lake; City of Peterborough; Town of Ajax; City of Kingston; City of Pembroke; and the Town of Orangeville.

A lengthy discussion ensued. The following items were discussed as possible next steps and focus for the group.

- It was felt that it is important to recognize local business for efforts made in making their stores accessible i.e. letters of recognition or plaques that could be displayed.
- Brochure for Public Awareness and Education (i.e. similar to one used by Chatham-Kent).
- Wheelchair Only Parking Spaces.
- Utilize the Association of Municipalities of Ontario requesting specific resolutions.

The CAO suggested that the committee draft a resolution with the support of the lower tiers and recommend that the County of Huron support and forward it to AMO for endorsement.

Moved by G. McLachlan

Seconded by R. Armstrong

That a resolution be drafted, with the support of Lower Tier Clerks, requesting two levels of handicapped parking spaces i) Wheelchair Space only to be double wide space and ii) Mobility/Disability Space.

CARRIED

3. Accessibility Forum

The County of Huron has received a registration form from Oxford County for a forum being held at the South Gate Centre in Woodstock, April 27, 2006. It is recommended that two representatives of the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee attend.

A free public Accessibility Forum is also being held in London on April 26, 2006.

Moved by L. Falconer

Seconded by R. Armstrong

That Doreen Koopmans, Joe Austin, and Phil Gandon attend the London Accessibility Forum on April 26, 2006 and further that Glen McLachlan attend the forum in Woodstock on April 27, 2006 with expenses to be reimbursed by the County.

CARRIED

It was noted that Mr. R. Fisher was planning on attending the forum in London as an observer.

4. Staffing Action

Due to existing staff constraints the Chief Administrative Officer, Larry C. Adams, is recommending that a part-time contract position be established for an Accessibility Advisory Coordinator to assist in research and guidance of the committee.

Moved by G. McLachlan

Seconded by D. Koopmans

That the staffing action be forwarded to the Committee of the Whole for approval.

CARRIED

L. Falconer wished to thank County staff for their administrative support.

5. Correspondence

Correspondence received from the Township of Howick, Clerk, Ronna Lee Johnson regarding the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee Terms of Reference and the status of the Review Sub-committee.

A discussion ensued on the process of this sub-committee. Sandra Thompson was selected as the contact person for the Building Accessibility Review Working Group. A practise review was to be organized and stalled for various reasons. The committee regrets the confusion and hopes to review and streamline the process when a part-time support staff is hired. It is hoped that this position would be the liaison for the committee and the lower tiers.

The CAO will be sending a response on behalf of the committee.

FOR INFORMATION

6. Huron County Municipalities Accessibility Activities for 2006

Lynda Rotteau submitted the attached activities sheet that was compiled for the lower tier municipalities. The committee reviewed activities which included by-law reviews; building reviews, and operational reviews.

FOR INFORMATION

7. Next Meetings

The next meeting of the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee will be held on June 16, 2006 at 9:30 a.m., Council Chambers, Court House, Goderich.

8. Adjournment

Moved by L. Rotteau

Seconded by A. Gingerich

That the meeting adjourn at 3:15 p.m. and be declared a half day meeting.

CARRIED

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Chair