



County
of Huron

Accessibility Advisory Committee



Minutes - January 12, 2007

GODERICH, ONTARIO

Goderich, Ontario
January 12, 2007

The HURON COUNTY ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE met in the Council Chambers, Court House, Goderich at 9:30 a.m. with all members present except D. Wilson, J. Austin, D. Kelly, J. Layton, and Larry C. Adams.

1. Appointment of HCAAC Chair

L. Rotteau called the meeting to order and called for a motion to appoint the Chair. S. Thompson nominated D. Kelly for the position of Chair.

Moved by S. Thompson

Seconded by R. Hicks

That D. Kelly be appointed Chair of the HCAAC effective January 12, 2007 to December 5, 2007.

CARRIED

2. Minutes

Moved by B. Fischer

Seconded by R. Hicks

That the minutes of the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of October 18, 2006 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Meeting Schedule

In order to accommodate a majority of the committee members, the following dates are recommended for meetings:

Friday, March 16, 2007

Friday, June 15, 2007

Friday, August 10, 2007

Friday, October 12, 2007

Moved by S. Thompson

Seconded by G. McLachlan

That the meeting dates be accepted.

CARRIED

4. Introduction of New Members

Robyn L. Hicks, Caregiver/Disability member

Heather Williamson, Professional

Dorothy Kelly, County Councillor

Ed Bezaire, Citizen

Maureen McCauley, Professional

FOR INFORMATION

5. Citizen Concerns

B. Fischer addressed the committee to inform that various members of the blind community were happy to hear that the Five Points in Goderich would undergo renovations to install a "bird call". He also noted on their behalf, it would be beneficial if "watch for pedestrians" signs could be installed on Britannia Rd. at the Highway 21 intersection point. L. Rotteau informed the committee she will speak with Ken Hunter from the Town of Goderich and the M.T.O to see how to proceed regarding this matter.

L. Falconer informed the committee that the newly renovated Library in Blyth did not have accessible doors and requested a letter be sent to the Municipality of North Huron and the Library Board on behalf of the committee.

J. Cowan informed the committee that the Citizen Concern forms have been printed and are to be used if accessibility concerns arise. L. Rotteau noted the Citizen Concern forms could be mailed or faxed to the County before the meetings.

FOR INFORMATION

6. In-Vehicle Incentive Program for Service Stations

a) Program

The In-Vehicle Incentive Program was designed to accommodate persons with varying abilities in order to encourage Service Stations within the county to provide an in-vehicle service to patrons who are unable to pump their own gas.

The committee requested an In-Vehicle program be designed and implemented. An information package which includes a letter and an application form has been drafted and will be sent out to county service stations for participation in the program.

Along with the information package, a sign will be printed that the service station can put in its window to let patrons know it provides in-vehicle service.

G. McLachlan requested there is a feedback form attached to the letter and application form in order to get the service stations involved. G. McLachlan also noted the signs should be visible from the road and the County's logo could be used by request.

L. Rotteau suggested contacting Edward Fuels to inform them about the program and see if there is opportunity for collaboration on this project.

M. McCauley suggested consulting the Transportation Standards to determine if gas station service had been addressed. She also suggested finding out if any other communities are doing a similar program.

Moved by L. Falconer

Seconded by R. Armstrong

That the In-Vehicle Program be forwarded to County Council for endorsement.

CARRIED

b) Sign Quotations

The following quotations have been received to print the In-Vehicle Incentive Program for Service Stations:

Maitland Signs -- \$10/sign
Goderich Print Shop -- approx \$6 each – depending on final specs.
Precision Print -- minimum \$42 – includes weather protection from the sun

Moved by S. Thompson

Seconded by R. Hicks

That the Goderich Print Shop be accepted as the printer for the signs.

CARRIED

7. Brochure

The committee requested a brochure be designed that outlined the committee's functions and duties.

L. Rotteau suggested using local pictures, and that some committee members have their picture taken upon permission. S. Thompson and B. Fisher volunteered to have their pictures taken to be put in the brochure.

M. McCauley noted the brochure is designed to educate and suggested there be a section on the brochure that explains what disabilities are. ODA definition is:

- Any degree of physical disability, infirmity, malformation or disfigurement caused by bodily injury, birth defect or illness and includes, but not limited to:
- diabetes mellitus; epilepsy; a brain injury; any degree of paralysis; amputation; lack of physical co-ordination; blindness or visual impediment; deafness or hearing impediment; muteness or speech impediment; or physical reliance on a guide dog or other animal, or in a wheelchair or other remedial appliance or device;
- a condition of mental impairment or a developmental disability;
- a learning disability, or a dysfunction in one or more of the processes involved in understanding or using symbols or spoken language;
- a mental disorder; or
- an injury or disability for which benefits were claimed or received under the insurance plan established under the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997*.

Moved by B. Fisher

Seconded by M. McCauley

That the pictures and information be added to the brochure.

CARRIED

BROCHURE QUOTATIONS

The following quotations have been received to print the brochures:

Goderich Signal Star -- \$99.82 (including taxes) for 100 brochures
Goderich Print Shop -- \$98.00 for 100 brochures
Precision Print -- \$125.00 for 100 brochures

Moved by R. Armstrong

Seconded by E. Bezaire

That the Goderich Print Shop be accepted as the printer for the brochures.

CARRIED

8. 2006 Accessibility Plan

The 2006 Accessibility Plan has been updated and sent to the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The 2007 Accessibility Plan is being updated and will be ready for first draft review by the committee at the March meeting.

FOR INFORMATION

9. Goals and Projects

J. Cowan requested direction from the committee on appropriate goals and suitable projects for the 2007 year.

Recommended Goals:

- Continue to organize public education events
- Allocate resources for accessibility
- Improve networking with other organizations
- Improve committee awareness

Projects:

- Take inventory of which local businesses and restaurants are accessible. Provide a link to county tourism webpage with a symbol indicating that the business is accessible.
- Design an accessibility webpage connected with the County's website.
- J. Cowan to attend the County's Tourism Event and Brochure Swap.

Moved by R. Armstrong

Seconded by G. McLachlan

That the goals and projects be put forth for 2007.

CARRIED

10. Correspondence

- i. ODA Working Group Minutes
- ii. Accessibility Directorate of Ontario
- iii. Ministry of Community and Social Services

FOR INFORMATION

11. Accessibility Activity Updates

a) M.P.P.'s Office

On November 8, 2006, J. Cowan contacted Ms. Mitchell's office directly to find out if any progress had been made in an attempt to make their front entrance properly accessible. Ms. Mitchell's assistant indicated their office had contacted their landlord, but nothing concrete has been established in terms of renovations.

On November 15, 2006, J. Cowan contacted the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario to find out what can or should be done regarding Carol Mitchell's inaccessible office. After being re-directed many times the Directorate responded and indicated it was the responsibility of the municipality.

On November 29, 2006, J. Cowan contacted the Municipality of Central Huron to determine what steps should be taken next. Richard Harding, Clerk, Central Huron contacted J. Cowan inviting herself, along with a committee member to a meeting with the building owner to discuss internal renovations. S. Thompson volunteered to attend the meeting.

A short discussion ensued and the committee agreed to the meeting and noted Ms. Mitchell should be invited to attend also.

S. Thompson informed the committee about similar problems at Mr. Steckle's M.P. office, however, she noted, once Mr. Steckle was informed of the problem with the entrance to his office, he immediately made it accessible.

b) Goderich – Five Points

L. Rotteau contacted Ken Hunter at the Town of Goderich in order to determine the cost to put a "bird call" accessible crossing in at the Five Points in Goderich. Ken Hunter estimated it would cost anywhere between \$15,000 and \$20,000 based on a recent installation in Kincardine.

Recently, the Town of Goderich has decided to undergo major repairs on the Five Points, and at that time the "bird call" will also be installed. This project will hopefully be completed in the next 6-12 months subject to M.T.O. funding.

c) Medical Centre – Clinton

The Medical Centre in Clinton received the committee's letter dated November 3, 2006 and responded to let the committee know that renovations are expected. However, at this time they are in the planning and funding stages, but anticipate to begin the construction within the next 12 months.

d) Point Farms

A letter was sent to Carol Mitchell's office regarding the accessible washrooms that were out of order for the 2006 camping season. Ms. Mitchell forwarded the letter on to Peter Sturdy, Ontario Parks Zone Manager. Mr. Sturdy informs the committee that the renovations will be done prior to the 2007 camping season.

e) Seaforth Curbs

A letter was drafted and sent to the Municipality of Huron East and the Huron County O.P.P to determine what could be done about cars parking on the sidewalks in Seaforth. The Huron County O.P.P contacted Ms. Cowan on November 15, 2006 and indicated that in order for the O.P.P to enforce by-laws the O.P.P need to have an agreement with the municipality that allows for by-law enforcement. Unfortunately, the O.P.P. and Huron East do not have an agreement that allows for the enforcement of by-laws, however, it was indicated that the O.P.P staff will be informed of this problem and if there is a violation under the Highway Traffic Act (HTA), the O.P.P will act accordingly. The O.P.P indicated that if Huron East employs a by-law officer, this issue could be addressed at that level.

The Municipality of Huron East responded to the letter indicating the matter will be referred to the Public Works Manager for recommendations and suggestions. Mr. McLachlan requests recommendations from the committee as this may be a similar problem in other communities.

f) Housing

S. Thompson asked for the committee's support on a resolution she prepared and sent to all M.P.'s and M.P.P.'s regarding the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation. S. Thompson noted she has received responses, including one from the Prime Minister.

S. Thompson provided an update on the accessible house designed by Quality Homes. The house is near completion and will be on display in Kenilworth once completed.

Moved by G. McLachlan

Seconded by M. McCauley

That a letter of support be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) endorsing the resolution.

CARRIED

g) Citizen Concern Form

L. Rotteau suggested the form be sent to the municipalities.

h) Site Plan Review Group

J. Cowan asked the committee for their input on the preparation of a Site Plan Review Checklist that will be used as committee approval of site plans. C. Dodds informed the committee a new building code has just been released. The new building code may have new regulations that relate to accessibility. The Planning Act and Ontario Disability Act identifies that municipalities have to review site plans to ensure sites are accessible for people with disabilities. Due to the relatively short timelines within which a municipality has to review a site plan (four to six weeks), it is unpractical to have the Accessibility Committee review all the site plans in the County of Huron. C. Dodds suggested it would be helpful for the committee to develop some accessibility standards that municipal staff could use to review a site plan. The committee's Building Official should also be consulted on this issue. Work should start on developing a Site Plan Review Checklist.

FOR INFORMATION

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee will be held on Friday, March 16, 2007 at 9:30 a.m., Council Chambers, Court House, Goderich.

13. Adjournment

Moved by R. Hicks

Seconded by R. Armstrong

That the meeting adjourn at 11:33 a.m.

CARRIED

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Chair