



Accessibility Advisory Committee

Minutes - March 7, 2008

GODERICH, ONTARIO



Goderich, Ontario
March 7, 2008

The HURON COUNTY ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE met in the Council Chambers, Court House, at 9:30 a.m., with all members present except: Rosemary Armstrong, Sandra Thompson, Maureen McCauley and Jeff Layton.

1. Appointment of HCAAC Chair

L. Adams called the meeting to order and called for a motion to appoint the Chair.

Moved by R. Hicks

Seconded by B. Fisher

That Dorothy Kelly be appointed Chair of the HCAAC effective March 7, 2008 to December 3, 2008.

CARRIED

2. Minutes

Moved by B. Fisher

Seconded by L. Falconer

That the minutes of the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of October 29, 2007 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. New Member

Lisa Harper is the newest member to join the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee. Lisa works at the Huron Business Development Centre in Seaforth.

FOR INFORMATION

Citizen Concerns

G. McLachlan raised concern with the lack of knowledge by the business community in regards to accessibility. His concern was in relation to educating the business owners. G. McLachlan suggested working with the BIA's to promote accessibility.

In relation to G. McLachlan's concern, L. Rotteau provided the Committee with an overview of the AMCTO training sessions in relation to Customer Service Standards and also informed the Committee that the private sector would have to adhere to the Standards by 2012. The Customer Service Standard will require that all public and private sector staff be trained in relation to the standard itself, as well as on accessibility and disabilities more generally.

4. Accessibility Forum

The October 29, 2007 Accessibility Forum was very successful in allowing for a consultation process with Building Officials, Municipal Clerks, Planners and other key stakeholders in the community. Thanks to all who helped out with the day. Notes from the Forum are attached. The forum played an integral role in the facilitation of the Site Plan Control Guidelines between the HCAAC and the local councils.

FOR INFORMATION

5. Municipal Audits

At the request of the HCAAC, each municipality submitted an audit based upon programs and services offered at the municipal level. Attached is the compiled information for the Committee to review and comment on.

B. Fisher requested physical audits of the local communities similar to the audit conducted in Huron East in 2007. L. Rotteau commented on the Customer Service Standard and explained that it might be beneficial to wait until the municipalities have had time to put the standards in place as some of the problems might be alleviated with the implementation of the standards.

G. McLachlan suggested a summer review. Warden Bezaire commented on the fact that people with disabilities have to get around in the winter also, and it would be beneficial from a snow removal and maintenance perspective to understand the issues.

J. Cowan also requested input from the Committee regarding main street audits to be done in the towns throughout the County similarly to the audit in Seaforth at the request of Huron East.

Moved by J. Austin

Seconded by E. Bezaire

That a letter be drafted and sent to the lower tier municipalities regarding physical audits in the communities.

CARRIED

6. Site Plan Control Presentations

All site plan control presentations have been made to the lower tiers, with the exception of Bluewater and Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh. The municipal feedback from the presentations has been positive to date. Committee members have been invited to attend the presentations if they were available.

Attached are the resolutions for adoption from the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry and Huron East.

FOR INFORMATION

7. Parking Document

Each municipality has been sent a copy of the model parking by-law. Enforcement is discussed within the model by-law; however, it is at the discretion of the municipality to enforce mis-use of parking spaces and permits.

J. Cowan requests advice and direction from the Committee regarding the parking document that was discussed on October 12, 2007. Attached is the City of Cambridge's parking standard.

Discussion ensued regarding municipal side street parking, enforcement, provincial legislation, and the Highway Traffic Act. D. Kelly suggested a by-law be drafted that would address parking in the County of Huron.

Moved by G. McLachlan

Seconded by B. Fisher

That a by-law be drafted to meet the needs of the communities in Huron County.

CARRIED

8. Training/Information Session Updates

Since the last HCAAC meeting, J.Cowan has attended the following training and information sessions:

- a) AMCTO Training – November and February

November:

The Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) Training session, in Owen Sound on November 23, 2007 focused on Accessible Planning. Jennifer Miller, AMCTO Trainer, gave an overview of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001, and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. The afternoon was devoted to group exercises, and a short explanation of the AODA, 2005 Standards. Discussion topics included: Where to look for barriers within the municipal sector; types of disabilities; barrier identification scenario and priority model exercise; barrier types and common requirements of AODA standards.

February:

The AMCTO training session, held in Mississauga on February 14, 2008 allowed for a dialogue between the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the municipalities. Lawyers were also present to answer questions in relation to the Customer Service Standard. Questions were raised on implementation feasibility and non-compliance fines. As well, the group discussed Human Rights issues as well as whether or not the Ministry would be offering assistance to municipalities by way of training or policy development.

- b) Joint Peel-Caledon Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting

On November 27, 2007 the Joint Peel-Caledon Accessibility Advisory Committee held a meeting and invited the public to attend to celebrate the International Day of Disabled Persons. The meeting commenced with the Chairperson giving an overview of the purpose of the meeting, and providing background information on the UN's International Day of Disabled Persons.

Presentations were given by Emil Kolb, Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the Region of Peel; Laura Nashman, Commissioner of Employee and Business Services, Region of Peel; Tracey MacCharles, Acting Chair, Accessibility Advisory Council of Ontario; Jo Walks, Program Manager, Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters; Stephen G. Largy, Program Manager, Mississauga Practice Firm for Persons with Disabilities; Kent Gillespie, Commissioner of Corporate Services and Regional Solicitor, Region of Peel.

The Joint Committee also presented the 2007 Region of Peel Accessibility Awards to various members of the community.

c) Emergency Preparedness Seminar

J. Cowan was unable to attend the Emergency Preparedness Seminar on December 3, 2007 in Toronto due to the weather. A different seminar will take place in March in relation to Emergency Preparedness and Accessibility.

FOR INFORMATION

9. Public Awareness Events Update

a) David Onley/Information Sessions

A letter has been sent to David Onley, inviting him to attend one of the information sessions to be held in April or May of 2008, however, Mr. Onley cannot commit to our event at this time. Attached is the letter Mr. Onley sent in response to our request.

J. Cowan submitted a request for funds, to the Huron Economic Development Matters Committee in order to facilitate the HCAAC's information sessions in relation to the Ministry's Customer Service Standards. Due to conflict of interest, the request was denied, however the Huron Business Centre is looking at adding a seminar regarding accessibility into their Better Business Seminar series.

A letter was drafted and sent to the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario to determine whether or not the ADO could send someone to make a presentation to the municipality and/or private sector in relation to the Customer Service Standards. J. Cowan received an email, dated December 6, 2007 declining the invitation due to legal reasons, lack of staff support and the existing AMCTO sessions that will be offered to municipalities in 2008.

Due to lack of funding, at this time, the information sessions cannot be held.

Discussion ensued regarding the availability of funding from community organizations such as Libro Credit Union in relation to community improvement grants.

L. Harper explained that there might be some opportunity to have accessibility included in the Huron Business Development Center's "Better Business Seminar". L. Harper volunteered to act as the liaison between the HCAAC and the HBDC for this seminar series.

E. Bezaire suggested a "trade show" type event be held in the community to raise the profile of accessibility and the Committee. It was suggested that the Committee contact organizations such

as Quality Homes and other organizations who are actively involved in accessibility related projects.

L. Falconer suggested that a volunteer sub-committee be formed to facilitate the work that is required in organizing these types of events. Suggestions were made regarding the Committee's attendance at the Huron Tourism's Annual Brochure Swap, in the mean time. G. McLachlan commented that these types of events would raise the profile of the Committee

J. Cowan mentioned that Greg McClinchey might be able to print some of the brochures at his office in Ottawa, in order to save the Committee some money. L. Rotteau offered to use her own personal printer also.

b) Network Huron Meeting

On December 11, 2007, J. Cowan delivered a presentation to a group of community organizations within Huron County at a Network Huron Meeting in relation to the Customer Service Standards and the subsequent legislation.

c) Clerks and Treasurers Meeting

December 14, 2007, J. Cowan delivered a short presentation to the Clerks and Treasurers Meeting in relation to the upcoming Customer Service Standards.

d) Avon-Maitland District School Board

A proposal was sent to Michael Ash at the AMDSB regarding an accessibility awareness day where Committee members would volunteer to talk to students in grades six to eight in order to bring awareness to youth regarding disabilities. The proposal was accepted, however, at this time no date has been scheduled for this event. J. Cowan proposed the event be held in May in order to keep with the theme of the Accessibility Awareness week, however, grade eight students are writing standardized testing during May. M. Ash will follow up with J. Cowan once a date has been determined that will suit the school board.

e) Community Volunteer

Dave Newman, radio announcer from CKNX (101.7 – The One) has agreed to act as the HCAAC volunteer in order to raise awareness around a specific disability. No plans have been confirmed.

FOR INFORMATION

10. Accessibility Plan 2008

Huron County's annual Accessibility Plan is in the process of being updated for the 2008 year. The plan's format has not changed from last year. Attached are received reviews from the municipalities for the Committee's comments.

FOR INFORMATION

11. ODA Working Group Meeting

An ODA Working Group Meeting was held on February 25, 2008. J. Cowan made a presentation in relation to the Customer Service Standards.

L. Rotteau provided an overview of the working group meeting. Her overview included a resolution that has been drafted to work with the County of Huron in order to develop policies as required by the Customer Service Standard. The resolution will be coming forward from the Clerks and Treasurers Meeting of March 14, 2008.

The ODA Working Group Meeting Minutes are attached.

FOR INFORMATION

12. Avon Maitland District School Board (AMDSB) Meeting

J. Cowan met with the AMDSB on February 25, 2008 in consultation for their annual accessibility plan.

FOR INFORMATION

13. Resolution

Attached is the resolution from the Town of Newmarket re: the request to the Premier of Ontario to eliminate the misuse of disabled parking permits and parking spaces.

Moved by G. McLachlan

Seconded by L. Falconer

That the resolution be supported by the HCAAC and forwarded to Committee of the Whole for endorsement.

CARRIED

14. Accessibility Activity Updates

- a) Text Aloud Program

Recently, a Text Aloud program was purchased by the Committee that allows Committee members with visual impairments to receive their agendas in an audio format that can be listened to through a specialized CD player.

FOR INFORMATION

15. Correspondence

- a) Region of Peel News Release – “Region of Peel Approves Accessibility Plan”
- b) International Day of Disabled Persons
- c) Globe and Mail: December 4, 2007 – “Disabilities no longer hidden”
- d) Letter to Accessibility Directorate of Ontario re: to establish a formal venue in which AAC Chairs can communicate with one another.
- e) Response to Accessibility Directorate of Ontario’s letter.

- f) Municipal Monitor -- "Equal Access"
- g) Information and Communication Standards Development Committee – Update
- h) Toronto Star Article – "Diversity ideal excludes disabled"
- i) "Seaforth's Accessibility Receiving Some Improvement" – Huron Expositor article, November 21, 2007
- j) "Who Kept the Dogs Out?" – Toronto Star article, February 9, 2008
- k) Information and Communication Standards Development Committee – Meeting # 6, Communique

FOR INFORMATION

16. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee will be held on June 13, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. Court House, Goderich, Council Chambers.

17. Adjournment

Moved by L. Falconer
Seconded by J. Austin
That the meeting adjourn at 11:25 a.m.

CARRIED

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Chair