



Accessibility Advisory Committee

Minutes - June 13, 2008

GODERICH, ONTARIO



Goderich, Ontario
June 13, 2008

The HURON COUNTY ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE met in the Council Chambers, Court House, at 9:30 a.m. with all present except B. Fisher, C. Dodds, K. Livingston, and C. Hoffman.

1. Minutes

Moved by G. McLachlan

Seconded by R. de Weerd

That the minutes of the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of March 7, 2008 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

2. New Member

Kirk Livingston is taking over the position of Chief Building Official for the Committee. K. Livingston is the Chief Building Official in the municipality of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh.

FOR INFORMATION

3. Public Awareness Event - Greg McClinchey

Greg McClinchey made a presentation to the committee regarding an accessibility awareness event. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness of disabilities, by creating barriers to demonstrate to those who do not live with disabilities, what it is like to have a disability. Mr. McClinchey explained the event would be a dinner fundraiser that would require each guest to participate through the application of a mobility impairment. This would be done in a manner that would be fun, educational and respectful for all those involved.

Questions were raised, including what is the tentative date for the event, as well as what is the expectation from committee members to be involved in this event. Mr. McClinchey responded by letting the committee know that he anticipates the event to take place towards the end of the summer, but also noted that he was flexible with the date. He noted that the only involvement from the committee would be their individual expertise as well as their ability to sell tickets. This event will be at no cost to the County or the Committee.

Moved by M. McCauley

Seconded by R. Armstrong

That the initiative be supported by the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee and further forwarded to Committee of the Whole for endorsement in principle.

CARRIED

Citizen Concerns

a) Brochure Swap

The Committee discussed various organizations and their impressions of the accessibility standards coming from the Province. Over all, those organizations who commented on the standards were generally in favour of the initiatives that they have to undertake to make their businesses accessible.

FOR INFORMATION

b) Land Registry Office – 138 North Street

The HCAAC recently received a complaint regarding the accessibility of the Land Registry Office. The main entrance has two steps leading into the building and the side entrance has a few barriers to the entrance, even though, it is at ground level. The complaint describes the front entrance as not being physically accessible to wheelchairs, and walkers, as well as the main entrance stairs being a hazard for someone with a visual impairment. The side entrance also has barriers that would not permit someone with a physical disability to enter into the side entrance.

J. Cowan informed the Committee that she is working with the County Facilities Manager and assessing County facilities. Once these assessments have been done, priorities will be established for making renovations in order to comply with the anticipated Built Environment Standards. J. Cowan also noted that the Land Registry Office has been assessed and is a priority for renovations.

FOR INFORMATION

b) YMCA in Goderich

G. McLachlan raised a concern regarding the YMCA in Goderich and whether or not there was a plan in place to assist people with disabilities in the event of an emergency. L. Rotteau noted that there are emergency exits and those exits are accessible to people with disabilities.

FOR INFORMATION

4. HCAAC Strategic Plan 2009

J. Cowan presented the HCAAC Strategic Plan to the committee and asked for their comments and input on the plan itself. The group had a lengthy discussion regarding the plan and the process that it should take. It was suggested that a facilitator be contacted to facilitate a strategic planning day based upon the work done to date. L. Rotteau volunteered to coordinate this day and suggested that the ODA Working Group be invited to attend the planning day as well.

FOR INFORMATION

5. Event Proposal Form

J. Cowan presented a form to be used for proposing events and programming initiatives. The form is to be completed by individual committee members prior to presenting ideas to the committee.

FOR INFORMATION

6. Customer Service Standards Presentation

J. Cowan delivered a presentation on the requirements under the AODA, 2005 Customer Service Standards to the Committee. Questions were raised regarding the County's policy development process, how to get the information out to the private sector as well as the legislation itself. J. Cowan informed the Committee of the policy development process and noted that the policy would be ready for the August Committee meeting, which would lead to the training aspect that is

required. J. Cowan also noted that she is in the process of speaking with the County's Economic Development Officer regarding the implementation of the legislation through the private sector. Once she has more information on this, she will report back to the Committee.

FOR INFORMATION

7. Enabling Accessibility Fund

Starting in 2008 Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC) has established the Enabling Accessibility Fund. Information regarding the fund can be found at HRSDC's website: http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/disability_issues/eaf/call2008/index.shtml

The first round of applications opened April 8, 2008 and closed April 30, 2008. It is anticipated that a second round of applications will be accepted in the fall of 2008.

FOR INFORMATION

8. Updates

- a) Brochure Swap
- b) International Plowing Match
- c) Huron Manufacturers Association Breakfast
- d) Presentation Board
- e) CNIB Conference
- f) Site Plan Control Presentations
- g) Municipal Audits
- h) Parking Document
- i) Brochures
- j) Letter to Municipal Councils
- k) Accessibility – Toronto Star – Sandra Thompson
- l) "WOAA becomes barrier free" article – Wingham Advance Times
- m) Huron Perth Health Care Alliance
- n) Mary Cardno – hospital awareness event
- o) Family Health Team – ribbon cutting event

FOR INFORMATION

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee will be held on August 8, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. Court House, Goderich, Council Chambers.

10. Adjournment

Moved by L. Falconer

Seconded by G. McLachlan

That the meeting adjourn at 11:30 a.m.

CARRIED

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Chair