



Accessibility Advisory Committee

Minutes - January 14, 2013

GODERICH, ONTARIO



**HURON COUNTY ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(HCAAC)**

Goderich, Ontario
January 14, 2013

The Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee met in the Council Chambers, Court House, Goderich, on the 14th of January, 2013. Councillor P. Gowing called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. All members of the Committee were present except member Charlene O'Reilly.

Staff present; Accessibility Coordinator Sandra Thompson, County Planner Arthur Churchyard, ODA Working Group representative Lynda Rotteau, Goderich Chief Building Official Jim Spence and Acting CAO & Deputy Clerk, Heather Adams. Social Services representative Robyn de Weerd sent regrets.

2. Election of Chair

MOTION:

Moved by: Member L. Falconer and Seconded by: Member B. Fisher:

THAT:

The HCAAC elect Councillor Paul Gowing, Mayor of Morris-Turnberry as Chair.

CARRIED

3. Introductions

Chair P. Gowing, Warden G. Robertson and County Planner A. Churchyard were introduced to all members of the Committee.

4. Pecuniary Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary conflict of interest.

5. Agenda

MOTION:

Moved by: Member B. Fisher and Seconded by: Warden G. Robertson:

THAT:

The HCAAC Agenda for January 14, 2013; be accepted and all the Reports included in the Agenda; be received.

CARRIED

6. Minutes

MOTION:

Moved by: Member L. Falconer and Seconded by: Member C. Knapp:

THAT:

The minutes of the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of November 26, 2012; be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

7. Committee Member Issues

7.1 AMO Email Regarding the Design of Public Outdoor Spaces

Proposed Standard: Member B. Fisher received an email from AMO regarding the Design of Public Spaces Standard and has concerns with the negative tone of the email. After some discussion it was felt that the negative tone may be because of the lack of government funding being provided to assist municipalities with the implementation of the standards. It was suggested that Coordinator S. Thompson should send a letter to AMO supporting the need for funding but encouraging them that we move forward with or without additional funding and that all recent materials be reviewed to make sure we are being comprehensive of all their material.

MOTION:

Moved by Warden G. Robertson and Seconded by Member J. Austin

THAT:

All recent AMO materials be reviewed and an appropriate letter be sent by Coordinator S. Thompson.

CARRIED

8. Report of the Accessibility Co-ordinator

Accessibility Coordinator S. Thompson presented the reports; for the information of the Board.

8.1 IARS Training Modules

The General Requirements Training module provided by the Government of Ontario was reviewed for the information of the Committee. This module and other similar ones are proposed for use in staff training. S. Thompson will be meeting with Human Resources staff to discuss the process and confirm training requirements.

MOTION:

Moved by Member M. McCauley and Seconded by Member L. Falconer

THAT:

Accessibility training for members of Council at the County and lower tier municipalities be done in the form of the Government of Ontario training modules just reviewed.

CARRIED

The Committee will review one module at each meeting to ensure its training is kept up to date.

8.2 Priority Review

The 2011 Committee Priorities document was reviewed. Member M. McCauley and S. Thompson will use this information, the IARS material and the Committee input from today to prepare a draft of 2013 priorities for the Committee's consideration at its next meeting.

Each member noted their priorities for the Committee briefly as follows:

- D. Braun – increase awareness; volunteered to be a speaker
- B. Fisher – awareness and education of the general public
- E. Bezaire - awareness, education and support businesses who incorporate accessibility features
- C. Knapp – national awareness week, equal opportunities for employment, more education
- J. Austin – ensure people with disabilities are treated just like every other human being
- M. McCauley- priorities plan with tracking, raise local awareness, use of speakers and presentations, feedback on awards program
- L. Falconer – more interaction with lower tier municipalities re education and awareness, policies that are straight forward and understandable, awareness
- B. Hicks – education and awareness, improving attitudes
- L. Rotteau – committee achievements to date
- G. McLachlan – education of youth especially through the schools
- G. Robertson – invite press to HCAAC meetings to raise awareness of committee activities and discussions.
- P. Gowing – delegations to lower tier municipalities to promote HCAAC activities and answer questions
- H. Adams – continue input to built environment to ensure accessible to all

- A. Churchyard – policies regarding land use and built environment
- J. Spence – Goderich businesses support for accessible locations as rebuilding
- S. Thompson – prioritize these items to ensure progress

MOTION:

Moved by Member L. Falconer and Seconded by Member M. McCauley

THAT:

The local press be invited to all meetings of the HCAAC.

CARRIED

8.3 Draft Emergency Workplace Response Policy & Individual Emergency Workplace Response Plan Form

S. Thompson presented the draft policy Emergency Workplace Response Information for Employees.

MOTION:

Moved by Member B. Fisher and Seconded by Member B. Hicks

THAT:

The Committee approves the Emergency Workplace Response Policy.

CARRIED

9. REPORTS FROM THE HCAAC SUB-COMMITTEES:

9. a) Building Plan Review & Physical Architectural Assessment Committee

Nothing to report.

9. b) Special Events, Awareness & Community Education Committee

S. Thompson advised that a letter had been sent to United Communities Credit Union requesting support and Alvin Law had been contacted about participating in National Access Awareness Week event.

Member M. McCauley presented the draft proposal for the HCAAC Accessibility Award program. Members asked to provide feedback to S. Thompson as soon as possible and the Sub-Committee will meet and finalize the proposal for implementation this year.

9. c) Directive and Regulation Review Committee

S. Thompson advised that the Design of Public Spaces Standard has been approved.

10. NEW BUSINESS AND/OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

S. Thompson advised she had been contacted by D. Barill regarding the need for a list of accessible accommodations to support the Municipality of Central Huron's bid for the 2014 Para Sports Olympic Games.

MOTION:

Moved by Member L. Falconer and Seconded by Member J. Austin

THAT:

A Sub-committee be formed to draft criteria for an accessibility checklist for restaurants and hotels;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Sub-committee members be:

- B. Fisher
- J. Austin
- C. Knapp
- G. McLachlan
- D. Braun

CARRIED

Member M. McCauley left the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

S. Thompson advised that she is working with the Perth County Accessibility Coordinator regarding a shared booth at the upcoming International Ploughing Match to be held in Perth County. They will also be working on ways to ensure the event is accessible.

S. Thompson noted that the Town of Goderich is updating its web site to be compliant with the AA Standards. The estimated cost is \$30,000.

The issue of Edwards Shell station in Goderich new chip system requires customers to go into the building to pay and so it is now not as usable for a person with disabilities to get fuel.

MOTION:

Moved by Member L. Falconer and Seconded by Member C. Knapp

THAT:

A letter be written to Edwards Shell in Goderich asking if they would consider a portable credit card unit.

CARRIED

11. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING AGENDA

S. Thompson will invite the media to the next meeting. The General Requirements training module will be reviewed again.

12. NEXT MEETINGS

The next meetings are March 18, June 17, September 16, and November 18, 2013

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

Moved by Member L. Falconer and seconded by Member J. Austin

THAT:

The HCAAC meeting adjourn at 12:15 p.m.

CARRIED

Chair Paul Gowing