

Joint Accessibility Committee

MINUTES OF MEETING

January 9, 2008

1:00 p.m.

Present: Warden Eleanor Harrison, Councillor Bill Davis, Councillor Tom Gardner, Councillor Jim Mackie, Peter McLuskey, Debbie Tripp, Angela Van Berlo, HKPR

Regrets: Chair Councillor Cheryl Murdoch, Miles Roberts, Robert Spurrier, Ross Burk

County Staff: Jim Wilson, CAO
Tamara Wilbee, County Clerk
Angela Balle, Administrative Assistant

Election of Chair

The Clerk opened the floor for nominations to elect a chair and vice chair for the committee.

J01/08

Moved by Councillor Bill Davis, Seconded by Councillor Jim Mackie

Be it resolved that Councillor Cheryl Murdoch be nominated for the position of Chair of the Joint Accessibility Committee for the 2008 term.

Carried

J02/08

Moved by Councillor Jim Mackie, Seconded by Councillor Tom Gardner

Be it resolved that Councillor Bill Davis be nominated for the position of Vice Chair of the Joint Accessibility Committee for the 2008 term.

Carried

Welcome and Introductions

Councillor Davis welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Adoption of Agenda

J03/08

Moved by Councillor Tom Gardner, Seconded by Angela Van Berlo

Be it resolved that the agenda for the January 9, 2008 - meeting of the Joint Accessibility Committee be adopted as circulated.

Carried

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest – None disclosed.

Acceptance of the Minutes

J04/08

Moved by Peter McLuskey, Seconded by Councillor Jim Mackie

Be it resolved that the minutes of the November 21, 2007 - meeting of the Joint Accessibility Committee be accepted.

Carried

Built Environment Update

Councillor Davis distributed information from the AODA Alliance entitled "Learn about the 2007 Ontario Election's Disability Accessibility Issues". Councillor Davis also reported that the next meeting of the Built Environment Resource Committee will be held at the end of January.

Deputation – None Requested

Public Awareness / Education

Ongoing Education/Awareness

Angela Van Berlo suggested to the Committee that thought be put into how the Barrier Aware materials could be further made known to the public. It was suggested that the Committee consider finding a means to distribute the material to functions throughout the year as a means to creating more public awareness of, not only the Barrier Aware Program, but also to raise the profile of the Joint Accessibility Committee.

The CAO suggested that a list of all County events booked for 2008 could be made available to the Committee from Bob Smith, Tourism, and Marketing Director for the County of Haliburton. Councillor Davis will also investigate the potential of booking space again this year for the 2008 Haliburton Home and Cottage Show.

The CAO suggested that any events at which the Barrier Awareness Program or any reference material is to be displayed be posted on the County Website. It was also suggested that any reference materials be made available to the public at the Tourist Information Centre.

Barrier Aware Program Status Update

Angela Van Berlo and Angela Balle attended the Rails End Gallery and the Harvest Bulk food store in Haliburton in order to carry out requested assessments through the Barrier Aware Program. The Harvest Bulk Food Store will be receiving the accreditation of being Accessible. There was a concern at the Rails End Gallery that the ramp had been closed due to poor weather conditions and therefore made the building completely inaccessible.

Councillor Davis will be reviewing the deficiency and report back to the Committee. Angela Van Berlo will be sending the Rails End Gallery a letter, copied to Dysart et al who own the building, that contains recommendations to make the building fully accessible and once these deficiencies have been corrected they will be awarded through the recognition program. Letters that are sent out to the businesses participating in the Program will be written under the signatures of the Chair of the Joint Accessibility Committee and Angela Van Berlo representing the Health Unit, as a means to further emphasize the partnership program.

J05/08

Moved by Councillor Tom Gardner, Seconded by Councillor Bill Davis

Be it resolved that official correspondence regarding the Barrier Aware Program be endorsed by both the Chair of the Joint Accessibility Committee and the representative of the HKPR.

Carried

It was noted that the Haliburton IGA has requested an assessment.

Angela Van Berlo has been communicating with the office of the Lieutenant Governor to determine if there would be a possibility to have the Lieutenant Governor participate in an official launch of the Barrier Aware Program.

It was suggested that it would be difficult to attract this type of participation, but perhaps if it were tied into a larger event in the vicinity, there could be more success. Angela VanBerlo will provide information that she has gathered to date to the CAO for further consideration.

Traffic Signals for the Visually Impaired - CNIB.

Correspondence has been received from Leanne Carpenter of the CNIB in Peterborough that indicates the location of the new traffic signals geared to visually impaired people so that members of the Joint Accessibility Committee may view the operation of these lights. Ms. Carpenter has also sent a document that outlines the CNIB's position on the parameters for installation of these lights. The Committee will review the document for further discussion at a future meeting.

Report on the AMCTO Accessibility Workshop

Angela Balle attended the AMCTO Accessibility Workshop in Richmond Hill and reported that the Customer Service Standards came into effect January 1, 2008 and that municipalities have until January 2010 to comply with Regulation 429 and individually report to the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

The Committee was provided with a copy of the package that was distributed at the workshop. Ms. Balle also noted that the compliance items have not yet been formally defined by the Ministry but that municipalities will be receiving a reporting package which explains the definitions once they have been finalized. Members of the Committee will review the material and return to the next meeting with any questions or concerns.

Building and Site Plan Review

The Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team are planning to make renovations to their building situated on County Road 1 in the Village of Haliburton. The building plans were reviewed by Rob Young and Miles Roberts and their input was provided to Duncan Ross, the Architects responsible for this building project.

The Clerk reported that the Family Health Team were very appreciative of the expediency of the process and thanked Rob and Miles for their input. She also informed the Committee of renovations planned for the lower level of the County Administrative Building and invited interested members of the Committee review the plans and submit their comments.

2008 Budget Priorities

The Clerk reported that the budget submission for Accessibility will be much the same as last year. Peter McLuskey asked that the municipalities be requested to provide their budget amounts and priority lists for Committee information once the budget processes are completed.

Other Issues Raised by Individual Committee Members

Councillor Mackie has indicated that washrooms in Highlands East identified in the Barrier Removal list have been brought up to standard.

Based on a discussion from a previous meeting, the Clerk asked if Councillor Mackie, through his association with the Petroleum Board, had been able to source further information regarding fuelling regulations that negatively affect persons with disabilities. Councillor Mackie provided background information in terms of the reasoning behind some of the regulations and agreed to make further enquiries on behalf of the Committee.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will take place March 12, 2008 at 1:00 pm.

Adjournment

J06/08

Moved by Councillor Tom Gardner, Seconded by Warden Eleanor Harrison;

Be it resolved that the meeting of the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee of January 9, 2007 be hereby adjourned.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk