

Joint Accessibility Committee

MINUTES OF MEETING

November 21, 2007

1:00 p.m.

Present: Chair, Councillor Cheryl Murdoch, Councillor Bill Davis, Councillor Tom Gardner, Peter McLuskey, Debbie Tripp, Ross Burk, Angela Van Berlo, HKPR

Guests: Dan Sayers, CBO- Dysart et al,
Robert Spurrier, Highlands East

Regrets: Councillor Jim Mackie, Rob Young, Miles Roberts

County Staff: Tamara Wilbee, County Clerk
Angela Balle, Administrative Assistant

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Cheryl Murdoch welcomed all to the meeting and introduced Dan Sayers , Chief Building Official from the Municipality of Dysart et al. Mr. Sayers attended to answer any questions that the Committee had about the application of the Ontario Building Code - Barrier Free Design as it applies to renovations, additions and newly constructed buildings.

Mr. Sayers distributed an excerpt from the current Ontario Building Code specific to Barrier-Free Design (S.3.8, OBC) Though the code has barrier free requirements there are no enforcement provisions. The OBC is applied province wide but is open to interpretation by those applying the code in issuing building permits and plan approval. Additions and renovations to older buildings may be built according to S. 3.8 but as the manufacturers design newer and larger wheelchairs, access to these previously accessible areas become compromised. The OBC as it exists at this point is geared toward those with physical disabilities and not to those with visual, hearing or other special needs.

Mr. Sayers iterated that most businesses in the Municipality of Dysart do make efforts to accommodate accessibility whenever renovations are carried out on their premises.

Representation on the Built Environment Resource Committee

Councillor Davis reported to the Committee that he had been recently been appointed by Association of Municipalities of Ontario to the newly formed Built Environment Resource Committee. The purpose of this particular Committee is to review existing standards, terminology and definitions and provide input/recommendations to a committee of Government representatives who may then pass standards, legislation and interpretation to be used by Municipalities Province wide. The Built Environment Resource Committee has an expected 15 month duration in which to do its research and develop the recommendations and standards for Accessibility to be presented to the Province of Ontario and further incorporated into the AODA.

Welcome and Introductions Robert Spurrier

At this point in the meeting Robert Spurrier was introduced and welcomed to the Committee. Mr. Spurrier was appointed to the Joint Accessibility Committee by the Municipality of Highlands East. Mr. Spurrier works for the municipality reviewing building plans.

Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Bill Davis, Seconded by Ross Burke;

Be it resolved that the agenda for the September 12, 2007 meeting of the Joint Accessibility Committee be adopted as circulated.

Carried

Acceptance of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Bill Davis, Seconded by Ross Burke;

Be it resolved that the Minutes of the September 12, 2007-meeting of the Joint Accessibility Committee be accepted.

Carried

Deputation – None Requested

Public Awareness / Education

Business Aware Program

Angela Van Berlo reported that the Barrier Awareness Campaign is in place. There are three businesses in the area who have already requested assessments of their premises after reading and hearing about the program through local newspapers and radio advertisements. Angela went on to explain the premise of the program as being a public recognition program that makes residents and visitors aware of the accessibility features of the business. Councillor Davis inquired as to whether the business would be obliged to update the premises according to the Building Code and was reassured by Angela that the program was not to institute legislation but only to recognize the business for its contribution to Barrier Awareness.

Customer Service Standards

Excerpts from the Municipal Monitor and the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario were provided to the Committee for information purposes.

Traffic Signals for the Visually Impaired - CNIB.

Correspondence is still on going with the CNIB for information as to the number of clientele within the County boundaries that utilize the CNIB for services.

2007-2008 Accessibility Plan Update

A letter has been received from the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario confirming the receipt of the 2007 - 2008 Joint Accessibility Plan for the County of Haliburton as submitted to them at the end of September, 2007.

Building and Site Plan Review

Dan Sayers has asked that the Committee request copies of any potential public building plans at an early stage to allow a longer review time.

Other Issues Raised by Individual Committee Members

Tamara advised that Angela Balle would be attending an Accessibility workshop hosted by the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario at the end of November and a report will be forthcoming at the next meeting.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will take place January 9, 2008 at 1:00 pm

Adjournment

*Moved by Councillor Bill Davis, Seconded by Councillor Tom Gardner;
**Be it resolved that the meeting of the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee of
November 21, 2007 be hereby adjourned.**
Carried*

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk