

Accessibility Advisory Committee

November 13, 2015 – 2:00 PM

The Accessibility Advisory Committee met on the above date at Grey Roots Museum and Archives with the following members in attendance:

Present: Chair Dwight Burley; Stan Arnelien, David Mollison, Christina McDonald and Jim Gow

Staff Present: Rob Hatten, Communications Officer; Heather Morrison, Deputy Clerk/Records Manager; Barb Fedy, Director of Social Services; Petal Furness, Manager of Museum and Archives; Jody MacEachern, Business Solutions Manager; and Kathie Nunno, Recording Secretary

Municipal Representatives

Present: Raylene Martell, (Southgate), Don Tedford (Hanover), Holly Morrison (Georgian Bluffs), Margaret Wilton-Siegel (Meaford), Robert Tremblay (Meaford), Amanda Healey (The Blue Mountains) and Megan Goss (Grey Highlands)

Others: Wil McReynolds, Augmented Marketing

Call to Order

Dwight Burley called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM.

Adoption of the Agenda

AAC05-15 Moved by: Christina McDonald

Seconded by: Stan Arnelien

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee agenda dated November 13, 2015 be adopted as presented.

Carried

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There was none.

Business Arising from the Minutes

Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes dated June 24, 2015

These minutes are for information only as they were adopted by Grey County Council on August 4, 2015.

Report CCR-AAC-33-15 Mapping Municipal Buildings with Accessible Features

Rob Hatten presented the above report about creating an electronic map to identify accessible features in municipal buildings within Grey County. Knowing where to find accessible washrooms and other accessible features will help those with accessibility issues. Margaret Wilton-Siegel spoke about the Accessibility Map Meaford is creating. She spoke to its features and explained how users can find out detailed information about each facility.

A similar map will be developed for Grey.ca using Meaford's map as a template. Information will be collected from all nine of the lower to create a county-wide tool. Not all local municipalities do their own geographic information systems mapping. Grey County staff will work with local municipalities to collect municipal building data such as coordinates, features and images. The data will then be mapped by Grey County's web GIS (geographical information system) team.

AAC06-15 Moved by: David Mollison

Seconded by: Stan Arnelien

WHEREAS accessible facilities are important in an accessible community;

AND WHEREAS it would be helpful to identify accessible municipal buildings within Grey County;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report CCR-AAC-33-15 be received;

AND THAT Grey County staff be directed to work with staff from the Municipality of Meaford on an accessible mapping project for municipal buildings in Grey County.

Carried

Report CCR-AAC-26-15 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Review

Rob Hatten presented the report that shows the progress Grey County has made in meeting the accessibility standards regulations. He outlined changes recommended by staff.

AAC07-15 Moved by: Christina McDonald Seconded by: David Mollison

WHEREAS Grey County has a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan to help meet the accessibility standards set out in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA);

AND WHEREAS the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan is to be reviewed and updated annually to accurately represent the County's accessibility progress;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report CCR-AAC-26-15 be received;

AND THAT the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan be endorsed as presented.

Carried

Report CCR-AAC-27-15 Ontario's Accessibility Action Plan

Rob Hatten presented the report and provided an overview of the action plan. The AODA has five accessibility standards in place for the Province to be accessible by 2025: customer service, employment, information and communications, transportation and design of public spaces.

The purpose of the standards is to allow all Ontarians to take part in everyday activities such as working, shopping, taking public transit, using the internet, attending sporting and cultural events and enjoying parks and other public spaces.

The Province has created a ten-year action plan to outline steps to make Ontario accessible by 2025.

AAC08 -15 Moved by: Christina McDonald Seconded by: David Mollison

WHEREAS 2015 marks the 10th Anniversary of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)* and the halfway point towards the goal of an accessible Ontario by 2025;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure has released a new action plan to build on the progress made through the AODA;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report on the Accessibility Action Plan be received for information.

Carried

AODA Celebration Video

The 10th anniversary video showed how individuals, families and friends, communities and everyone benefits from making Ontario accessible.

Correspondence

Call for Nominations: June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for Voluntarism in Ontario

Members were given this letter for information.

Other Business

Bill 114 – Municipal Action on Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities Act, 2015

Rob Hatten noted that this private member's bill has received first reading at the House of Commons. There is a potential for municipal liability if portable aids are left in place after use and cause a tripping hazard. As this bill currently reads, it removes the municipalities' right to have a say over the construction methods surrounding accessible aids built by businesses but placed on public property (for example, sidewalks).

Jim Gow spoke about Perth County's ramp initiative in the business community where the county provided opportunity for businesses to participate in a bulk ramp purchase which reduced the economic burden for the businesses.

Margaret Wilton-Siegel added that the Municipality of Meaford offered a funding application to the public to support the Stop Gap project. Robert Tremblay noted that Meaford is also updating their street laws by-laws to change where a by-law may be a road block for accessibility.

Don Tedford noted that the intent is to only have the temporary ramp in place while it is being used. It would be removed immediately following its use.

Christina McDonald outlined the benefits and challenges of some businesses that use Stop Gap ramps. Getting into the building is the first step, but aisles need to be accessible. Fire escape and emergency situations also need to be considered.

Robert Tremblay mentioned the benefit of communicating with businesses to ensure that the use of the ramps is done in the most beneficial way.

Augmented Reality App Tour

Following the meeting, Petal Furness will introduce the creator of the Grey Roots augmented reality application. Wil McReynolds will demonstrate how the augmented reality program works with cell phones or tablets. The virtual experience adds information and storytelling to the building and exhibits. There are many benefits of mobile technology. The application helps visitors to find their way around the museum, it provides consistent messaging about exhibits and pieces and it provides visitors with another way to learn about history other than reading about it or having details provided by a live volunteer or staff member.

Next Meeting Date

To be determined.

On motion by David Mollison, the meeting adjourned at 2:57 PM.

Dwight Burley, Chair