

**MINUTES OF THE  
COUNTY OF GREY  
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY SUB COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, February 14, 2012 – 2:00 p.m.**

The Accessibility Advisory Committee met on the above date at the County Administration Building with the following in attendance:

Present: Councillor Dwight Burley, Christina McDonald, Jerry Krauter, Scott Seiler, and Warden Duncan McKinley. Nancy Seiler joined the meeting in progress.

Also Present: Barb Fedy, Director of Social Services, Bill Klingenberg (Georgian Bluffs); Lisa Kidd (The Blue Mountains); Dawn Russell-Smith (Meaford); Don Tedford (Hanover); Dave Mollison (West Grey) and Patti McNabb, Recording Secretary.

Regrets: Don Bullock (voting member), Stan Arnelien (voting member), Lance Thurston, Chief Administrative Officer; Carol Watson (Southgate); Dave Milliner (Southgate).

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### **Welcome**

Barb Fedy welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were conducted for the benefit of new municipal representative from Meaford, Dawn Russell-Smith.

### **Minutes from November 8, 2011**

The minutes from November 8, 2011 have been endorsed by County Council and were presented for information only.

Moved by: Dwight Burley

Seconded by: Scott Sieler

**THAT the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting dated November 8, 2011 be approved.**

Carried

Mrs. Fedy noted that minutes will be circulated to committee members for review, feedback and approval prior to submission to the Corporate Services Committee and County Council for approval of action taken by the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC).

### **Business Outstanding from November 8, 2011**

There was none.

**Update from the Working Group (2012 International Day of Persons with Disabilities Celebration)**

Mrs. Fedy reviewed the draft terms of reference for the working group and highlighted the preliminary discussions for the day of celebration. Mrs. Fedy extended gratitude to Jerry for providing the draft document, which was approved by the working group. Mrs. Fedy advised the members of current practices on behalf of the County regarding proclamations and sponsorships

Consideration is being given to invite the Hon. David Onley - The Lieutenant Governor of Ontario as an honoured guest and speaker. Coordination is continuing and regular updates will be provided.

### **Triple DDD (Disabled Discount Day) Initiative (PowerPoint)**

Mrs. Fedy shared a presentation provided from a member of the Ontario Network of Accessibility Professionals (ONAP) group highlighting the initiative of a young man in the Niagara Region requesting support from local service providers in the Niagara Region for a nominal discount one day per month for recipients with disabilities in receipt of Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), for information.

There was discussion regarding potential negative impacts such an initiative might have of requesting discounts for persons with disabilities. It was noted that some service providers are opting out of discounts for seniors as the impacts are anticipated to cause a potential shortfall with the imminent increase to the number of seniors as the baby boomers approach age of retirement. There was discussion that limited funding for ODSP recipients is a social service issue, not necessarily an accessibility issue.

There is a Social Assistance Review currently underway; this initiative supports aspects of that review. Mrs. Fedy noted the opportunity to provide feedback to the Commissioner citing inequities of the amount of financial assistance paid to recipients of ODSP.

Moved by: Scott Seiler

Seconded by: Jerry Krauter

**THAT the Disabled Discount Day Initiative be forwarded to the Social Services Committee for further consideration.**

Carried

### **Do It Yourself (DIY) Accessibility News Article**

An electronic news article was viewed, highlighting the "Ramp Project", an initiative coordinated by Luke Anderson, a Toronto engineer and wheelchair user, of community advocates designing, building and installing temporary, brightly coloured wooden ramps to store front businesses in downtown Toronto area. The temporary ramps are custom fitted to each store front, ensuring that current building codes are not violated. A hard copy of this article will be provided to the advisory committee.

There was discussion of an alternative movement currently underway whereby inaccessible stairwells are showcased by surrounding the stairwell with caution tape

and signage that indicates the stairs are perceived to be broken as stairs are inaccessible by anyone other than able-bodied persons without the availability of ramps or other alternate forms of access.

Councillor Burley left the meeting.

### **Service Animal Signage**

A sample of service animal signage used by a member municipality was provided to the members of the committee for information.

Nancy Seiler joined the meeting.

Moved by: Jerry Krauter

Seconded by: Scott Seiler

**THAT information pertaining to the service animal signage be provided to lower tier municipalities within the County of Grey and local Chambers of Commerce as reference material.**

Carried

### **Accessibility Updates**

**Grey County** – Mrs. Fedy noted that the County of Grey has allocated funding for a dedicated staff person in the role of an accessibility coordinator. The final job title and duties have not been determined, but is anticipated to be implemented within 2012. The role will also provide assistance to the entire corporation. There was discussion regarding employment equities associated with this position.

Mrs. Fedy noted that Grey County hosted a training session which provided a high level overview of the development of accessible documentation; staff from lower tier municipalities were also invited to attend. Scott Seiler provided a live demonstration of JAWS screen reader software. This software has been purchased by the County to assist with accessible document format development. Mrs. Fedy thanked Scott and Nancy Seiler for their assistance in providing the live demonstration. The reactions to this demonstration of staff and participants were profound; positive feedback is still forthcoming. 211 is an information service provider which is supported by the County of Grey allowing access to information in a one-stop shop contact further enhancing accessibility for residents of Grey County. Mrs. Fedy advised that accessible corporate templates are being created. Mrs. Fedy further noted that an accessibility component has been encompassed within the new Corporate Strategic Plan.

**Town of the Blue** – Mrs. Kidd noted that two staff attended the training session facilitated by Grey County. Additional training sessions have been implemented for staff to create accessible documents with successful conversion to PDF. Mrs. Kidd noted that an accessible emergency plan is available. Print materials and notification on the website note alternate formats are available upon request and as soon as practicable. Browse Aloud Software has been purchased for audible viewing of the website. Mrs. Kidd highlighted some of the accessible features of Browse Aloud. Visitors to the

website have the option of downloading the software free of charge. Mrs. Kidd noted anticipation of endorsement by council for all vendors to provide confirmation of their accessible customer service policies with the Purchasing guidelines.

**Hanover** – Mr. Tedford noted that the Town of Hanover will be implementing a Downtown Revitalization Plan funded through Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and that public consultations will be conducted. A request was made to have any pertinent information coming from the public consultation process of the revitalization project made available to the advisory committee for review and feedback.

### **Other Business**

There was general discussion regarding challenges associated with inaccessible storefronts within communities throughout the county.

Mrs. McDonald advised that her daughter Natalie has been chosen as the 2012 Female Provincial Easter Seals Ambassador representing all children with physical disabilities within the Province of Ontario.

The election of Chair and Vice Chair will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

### **Next Meeting Dates**

There was discussion regarding dates for future meetings. The next quarterly meeting will be scheduled for May and notification sent to members.

### **Adjournment**

On motion of Warden McKinley, the meeting adjourned at 3:50pm

Barb Fedy