



Committee Minutes

Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee November 2, 2021 – 2:00 PM

The Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee met on the above date through electronic means with the following members participating:

Present: Chair Catherine Sholtz; Dwight Burley, Andy Underwood, and Brooke Sillaby

Regrets: Andrew Edgcumbe, Claudia Strel Locke, and Christina Schnell

Municipal Representatives:

Jen Patton, Town of the Blue Mountains; Holly Malynyk, Township of Southgate, Brittany Drury and Jenn Burnett, Georgian Bluffs; Debbie Yip, Grey Highlands; Genevieve Scharback, West Grey

Staff

Present: Kathie Nunno, Administrative and Accessibility Coordinator; Heather Morrison, Clerk; Stephanie Lacey-Avon, Intermediate Planner; Tara Warder, Deputy Clerk/Legislative Coordinator

Others: Zach Carson, Georgian Bluffs; Andrew Wilken, Hanover; Margaret Wilton-Siegel, Meaford;

Call to Order

Chair Catherine Sholtz called the meeting to order.

Introduction of New Member

Kathie Nunno introduced Brooke Sillaby as the newest Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee member. Grey County Council endorsed Brooke's appointment at Grey County Council on October 28.

Brooke recently relocated to Grey County from the Guelph area where she was a member of the accessibility committees for the City of Guelph and McMaster University's Social Work department. Brooke worked on a national standards committee to create national standards for service dogs in Canada. She is Chair of the Canadian Centre on Disability Studies, now known as Eviance. Eviance is an organization that focuses on disability research to enhance solutions that advance human rights and equity-focused decision making in Canada.

Ms. Sillaby is looking forward to helping improve pdf accessibility and is interested in advocating for accessibility for all disabilities.

The group welcomed Ms. Sillaby to the Committee; Ms. Sillaby said she was looking forward to working with everyone.

Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations made.

Site Plan Reviews

OPS 2021-46 Parking Lot Line Repainting Report

Zach Carson, Facilities Coordinator addressed the committee on the parking lot line repainting at the Township of Georgian Bluffs Municipal Office and Sarawak Family Park on Grey Road 1. As part of the review, staff want to meet accessibility requirements.

Mr. Carson noted that the plan for the administration office is to become compliant with the Township's Zoning By-law. A Type B accessible parking spot will be added at the south entrance of the building.

The parking lot at the Sarawak Family Park will have approximately the same number of spots, however two new accessible spaces will be introduced. Further upgrades to a washroom have already been completed at the park.

JAAC08-21 Moved by: Andy Underwood Seconded by: Councillor Burley

That the Grey County Joint Accessibility supports the proposed line repainting at the Township of Georgian Bluffs Municipal Office and Sarawak Family Park.

Carried

Hanover Site Plan Report

Andrew Wilken addressed the above noted report regarding a 21-unit, four story apartment building at 434 18th Avenue, and two 6 story apartment buildings near the intersection of 14th St. and 24th Ave.

They are both in the early design stages and going through the minor variance process. Following that, they would then proceed to the site development agreement stage where the feedback collected at this table can be incorporated.

He outlined the proposed details of the apartment buildings.

It is anticipated that both buildings will commence construction in the spring of 2022.

Questions and comments were addressed regarding:

- Consideration of affordable and / or accessible units and what Grey County's role is in affordable housing. It was noted that there is an affordable housing video series which staff can distribute
- Inclusion of sidewalks and street lighting, as there are none currently planned until further development occurs in this area
- Concerns over lack of audible signal lights. There is opportunity to complete this now rather than later
- Concerns over lack of drop curbs
- Inclusion of tactile features for those who are visually impaired

The Committee noted that it would be beneficial to review the drawings again when further details are provided.

JAAC09-21 Moved by: Councillor Burley Seconded by: Andy Underwood

That the comments from the Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee regarding the proposed site plan reviews of the apartment buildings at 434 18th Avenue and at the intersection of 14th Street and 24th Avenue in Hanover be received; and

That the site plans come back to the Committee for further comment as they develop.

Carried

Grey Road 4 and Bruce Street North, Police Station

Genevieve Scharback addressed the Committee on the proposal for a new police station in the Municipality of West Grey. She noted that only a few portions of the building will be open to the public. It is a single floor building located at the south west corner of Grey Road 4 and Bruce Street North in Durham. The public will have access to the washrooms, community room, public reception, and entrance. These are conceptual drawings only. West Grey staff are looking for any improvements they can make at this time.

Councillor Burley noted that there are so many other products other than the six inch push buttons for opening doors. He inquired as to whether they would consider upgrading to other methods of building access.

It was noted that it may be short sighted to only consider accessibility in the portion of the building open to the public. There are others who have sustained injuries, are working on administrative duties, etc. and should have an accessible office space as

well. Ms. Scharback noted that the washroom is accommodating, and the office space has ample room for accessibility considerations for staff.

Concerns were expressed with signage and whether it is readable for people with low vision. There was further suggestion to include braille on the signage as well. Additional comments were made regarding the importance of good acoustics and preventing sound from carrying throughout the building in consideration of those with sensory and other disabilities

JAAC10-21 Moved by: Andy Underwood

Seconded by: Brooke Sillaby

That the comments from the Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee regarding the proposed site plan for the police station, be received; and

That the Site Plans come back to the Committee for further comment as they develop.

Carried

Reports

PDR-JAAC-24-21 Trails Upgrade Considerations

Stephanie Lacey-Avon presented the above noted report. Grant money has been received through the Community Foundations of Canada – Healthy Communities Initiative. Its purpose is to transform public spaces in response to COVID-19. \$3000 has been received to be put towards an accessibility ramp at the St. Vincent Tract lookout. The lookout is in the Municipality of Meaford off the Georgian Trail.

Staff would like the committee's input on whether there are additional options to consider for accessibility amenities along the rail trail or forest properties. Some considerations staff suggested include additional rest locations/benches or enhanced provision of shade.

Ms. Lacey-Avon asked the Committee if they view the St. Vincent Tract lookout to be the optimal location in which to build the ramp, or if the funds should be spent on accessibility of the trail.

The Committee concurred that money would be well spent on accessibility signage for the trail. The current signage is outdated and needs to be replaced. It was noted that there is significant funding required to maintain and revitalize this trail. Signage and resting areas are important.

JAAC11-21 Moved by: Brooke Sillaby

Seconded by: Andy Underwood

That Report PDR-JAAC-24-21 be received; and

That staff use the input provided by the Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee to guide decisions for Grey County trails upgrades.

Carried

CCR-JAAC-09-21 Grey County 2021 Accessibility Compliance Report

Kathie Nunno presented the above noted report. To meet municipal accessibility legislation, Grey County is required to submit an Accessibility Compliance Report before the end of 2021. Ms. Nunno spoke to the difficulty in meeting WCAG consistently and noted the two areas in the 2021 Compliance Report where Grey is not compliant, being the County website and conventional transit.

She noted that Grey County's IT department is working on redeveloping the main section of the website so that it can be made more accessible.

Alternate approaches are used with the Grey Transit Route GTR to make it as compliant as possible.

JAAC12-21 Moved by: Councillor Burley Seconded by: Andy Underwood

That Report CCR-JAAC-09-21 Grey County 2021 Accessibility Compliance Report be received; and

That the 2021 Accessibility Compliance Report be endorsed and submitted to the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility.

Carried

Other Business

Discussion: How to submit site plan information so it is as accessible and meaningful as possible

The Committee discussed the process, noting that site plans are not easy to examine and understand. It was noted that having a written description is helpful. Thinking of the projects with an "eyes closed" approach may help with writing descriptively.

Next Meeting Dates

Staff will be in touch regarding potential meeting dates.

On motion by Councillor Burley and Brooke Sillaby, the meeting adjourned at 3:28 PM.

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Catherine Sholtz, Chair