

## Accessibility Advisory Committee

June 10, 2014 – 1:00 PM

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

Present: Chair Dwight Burley, Christina McDonald, Stan Arnelien, Jim Gow, Brooklyn Marx

### Others

Present: Barb Fedy, Director of Social Services; Brian Manser, Museum Manager; Sim Salata, Collections Manager; Natalie McDonald; Patti Gardiner, Administrative Assistant and Kathie Nunno, Recording Secretary

### Municipal

Representatives: Don Tedford, Chief Building Official, Hanover; Amanda Healy, Health and Safety/Human Resources Coordinator, The Blue Mountains; David Mollison, Municipality of West Grey Councillor; Murray Hackett, Township of Georgian Bluffs CAO; and Laura McDougall, Municipality of Grey Highlands

## Call to Order

Chair Burley called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM and requested that those in attendance introduce themselves.

## Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There was none.

## Business Arising from the Minutes

*Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes dated March 11, 2014*

These minutes are for information only as they were adopted by the Corporate Services Committee on May 13, 2014 and by Grey County Council on June 3, 2014.

Mr. Hackett and Ms. McDougall then entered the meeting.

## Reports

### *CCR-AAC-09-14 Moreston Heritage Village Church*

Brian Manser and Sim Salata presented the above report addressing the historical relevance of churches in Grey County and particulars associated with the church building for Moreston Heritage Village.

Mr. Manser followed up on the various options for washroom facilities for the Moreston Heritage Village. Brian noted that Grant Diemert, the project architect, is ensuring that the Ontario Building Code accessibility requirements are being implemented.

Accessibility items, such as the location and height of buttons to automatically open a door, can be more of a barrier than a tool to assist with accessibility if installed without complete planning and consideration.

Discussion of opportunities to address sloped flooring and companion seating were also discussed. It was noted that the choir area is not accessible. Build start is anticipated for spring of 2015 pending approvals.

Mr. Manser and Ms. Salata then left the meeting.

Concern was expressed regarding the location of accessible seating, noting that it is often not optimal for the participant. Companion seating is also a concern. Accessible seating in the middle, not just at the back or at the front was identified as being desirable.

AAC03-14 Moved by: Christina McDonald

Seconded by: Stan Arnelien

**That Report CCR-AAC-09-14 which provides an overview of accessibility requirements in the design of the church in Moreston Heritage Village at Grey Roots be received and endorsed as presented.**

Carried

Accessibility Advisory Committee Role

Mrs. Fedy led a group discussion regarding the committee's direction and potential role. This item was deferred from the last meeting to provide members with an opportunity to consider the topic.

Concern was also expressed regarding a lack of funding to address accessibility issues.

Collaboration with other accessibility committees was mentioned.

ONAP is the Ontario Network of Accessible Professionals. This is an informal network of municipal employees whose duties include accessibility. The mandate of the OADA is for all of Ontario to be accessible by 2025. Mrs. Fedy noted that Vaughan and Milton are leaders in accessibility and that those municipalities have provided funding for accessibility needs in their communities, with dedicated supports. Mrs. Fedy has suggested that the implementation of a work plan with attainable goals and deliverables would help in the progression of the committee.

Collaboration with seniors groups for common challenges such as transportation and access to services and goods is a potential opportunity.

Education was identified as an important aspect. Mrs. Fedy noted that an article can be included in the Grey County Newsletter, the Grey's Vine. Education and awareness is necessary as a change in focus can result from information sharing.

Additional accessibility issues for the Moreston Heritage Village church building were identified such as an effective sound system and having a braille bible if bibles are going to be in the pews. It was also noted there was concern that persons using wheel chairs or assistive devices would be kept at the back of the building as well as separation from their support person persists with the current draft floor plan. However, there has been one additional space allocated near the front of the church.

Social media was identified as a tool for increasing awareness.

Leadership was identified as a key to success. The ministry responsible for accessibility has changed and this portfolio is now included within the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Employment, where it was previously with the Ministry of Community and Social Services. There was a thought that accessibility has slipped into the background of the new portfolio. The provincial compliance requirements have not been supported with tools or resources.

Mrs. Fedy advised that Grey County has approximately half of the reserve finances needed to make the Ontario Early Years Centre in Hanover accessible by installing an elevator. The goal is to ensure that the entire building is accessible by 2018.

Summary of Key Ideas for Committee Role and Direction:

1. Awareness and Information Sharing
  - a. Provide information through newsletters
  - b. Provide departmental meeting updates
  - c. Provide staff meeting updates
  - d. Share committee information with other municipalities and counties
  - e. Provide education such as accessible customer service training with accessibility exercises and language tools
  - f. Define accessibility. Disabilities include seeing, hearing, mobility, flexibility, dexterity, pain, learning, developmental, mental/psychological and memory
2. Work Plan
  - a. Obtain information from other municipalities such as Milton and Vaughan
  - b. Include recent celebrations such as the newly accessible Durham Community Centre
  - c. Be ready to take advantage of funding opportunities when they arise as timelines for application are often very short
3. Physical Structure
  - a. Obtain information on accessible door opener as installed at CBC building in Toronto
  - b. Build doorless washrooms
  - c. Rate each physical structure by the number of accessibility issues that it overcomes
4. Networking
  - a. Align with the Seniors groups
  - b. Collaborate with local municipalities within Grey County
  - c. Collaborate with local Chambers of Commerce

## Correspondence

The OMSSA Newsletter was provided for information. Mrs. Fedy noted that the information provided can help to build the work plan. There are great recommendations in the newsletter. Mrs. Fedy offered to prepare a summary for the next meeting.

## Other Business

### *Rural Transit*

Grey County has several rural transit operators such as taxi, mobility vans, SMART, etc. Grey County has committed to and launched a short project to assist with the coordination of existing rural transportation services. Grey County's departments of

Social Services, Transportation Services and Planning are working together on this project which is hoped to include involvement with 211 if possible. The recommendations from the consultant are anticipated to be presented for consideration to Committee and Council in the fall of 2014.

### *Proposed Provincial Changes to the Customer Service Standard*

This information is on the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Employment website. Here is the link: [Proposed Revised Customer Service Standard](#).

### *Other*

The importance of policing accessible parking spots was discussed. A windshield flyer addressing inappropriate parking in accessible parking spots was introduced. Although it is possible that this communication is intended to advocate for those with disabilities, there is potential for inappropriate blame. Education and awareness is important.

Provided for convenience is link to a website that has options for automatic door openers: [Camden Door Controls](#)

## Next Meeting Dates

Date: Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> following Grey County Council at 1:30 PM

On motion by Christina McDonald, the meeting adjourned at 2:38 PM.

Dwight Burley, Chair