

## Accessibility Advisory Committee

October 28, 2014 – 2:00 PM

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

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

Regrets: Brooklyn Marx

### Staff

Present: Barb Fedy, Director of Social Services; Rob Hatten, Communications and Accessibility Officer Geraldine Cole, Health and Safety Manager; Heather Morrison, Deputy Clerk / Records Manager and Tara Warder, Recording Secretary

### Municipal

Representatives: Amanda Healy, Health and Safety / Human Resources Coordinator, The Blue Mountains; Shawn Everitt, Director of Community Services, The Blue Mountains; David Mollison, Councillor, Municipality of West Grey and Laura McDougall, Human Resources Coordinator, Municipality of Grey Highlands

## Call to Order

Chair Burley called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM.

## Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There was none.

## Business Arising from the Minutes

## *Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes dated June 10, 2014*

These minutes are for information only as they were adopted by Grey County Council on August 5, 2014.

### Transit Trial between the Blue Mountains and Collingwood

Shawn Everitt updated the Committee on the trial transit link between Collingwood and The Blue Mountains. The trial was for a six month period and ridership levels were positive. A three month extension was also requested to examine levels in June, July and August. The link is from Collingwood to Blue Mountain Resort via Craigleith. There are five stops total, three being in the resort area.

The Blue Mountains Council has given preapproval to make the link permanent. There are no plans at this time to have a link to Thornbury.

The cost sharing is divided equally between The Blue Mountains and Collingwood.

Bus stop enhancements are also proposed.

Discussion has occurred with County Transportation staff on the possibility of additional stops, however the route must be no longer than one hour.

Mr. Everitt noted that he hopes to have some Committee members ride the route to ensure accessibility.

The link has been successful with higher than anticipated ridership.

The bus is fully accessible. The Blue Mountains and Collingwood will share the cost of a bus when the link becomes permanent.

The cost is \$3 per ride.

Discussion occurred on the possibility of providing the service to Meaford and Thornbury.

Collingwood is now able to service two new subdivisions it was not previously able to service.

### CCR-AAC-34-14 Pets in the Workplace Policy

Rob Hatten presented the above noted report to the Committee for review. The intent is to ensure that service animals are welcome in County buildings, but prevent citizens from bringing pets into the workplace in order to reduce health and safety risks.

It was noted that provisions are made for employees who have allergies and may be affected by a service animal in the building.

Mr. Hatten spoke to the right to ask a member of the public if the animal is a service animal and ability to request to see a doctor's note.

Geraldine Cole noted that training is completed at orientation regarding service animals.

AAC04-14 Moved by: Christina McDonald Seconded by: Stan Arnelien

**WHEREAS the County of Grey continues to provide accessible customer service by welcoming service animals into the workplace;**

**WHEREAS the County of Grey requires a Procedure to permit service animals into the workplace while prohibiting personal pets in order to mitigate health and safety concerns for staff and the public;**

**AND WHEREAS along with the policy and procedure, signage will be required outside county buildings welcoming service animals and while prohibiting personal pets;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report CCR-AAC-34-14 be received;**

**AND THAT A-GEN-006-001, being the Pets in the Workplace Procedure be endorsed and forwarded to the Corporate Services Committee as presented for consideration.**

Carried

## Coordinated Rural Transportation Project Update

Barb Fedy updated the Committee on the above, noting that the County Planning, Social Services and Transportation Departments, as well as the consultant have been engaged with current transit providers in rural Grey County to look at coordinating successful efforts.

Challenges current providers have been experiencing were also examined.

There are plans for the steering committee to move forward in 2015. It is anticipated that it will take eight months to get the project moving forward and could be three years before service is in effect.

Mrs. Fedy spoke to the importance of 211 services in assisting with providing information to citizens.

## 2012 Canadian Survey on Disability

Barb Fedy addressed the Committee on the 2012 Survey on Disability. It was noted that the data contained within the survey is used in the development of social policy. The survey and data can be found at the following links:

[Initial Findings on the Canadian Survey on Disability](#)

[Canadians in Context](#)

## Committee Membership / Recruitment Discussion

Rob Hatten spoke to the Committee about recruitment for the Accessibility Advisory Committee. Mr. Hatten thanked the members for their participation on the Committee during the term.

The new Committee will run the term of Council.

Mr. Hatten requested Committee members to contact him by the end of November with their intentions of continuing on the Committee.

Mr. Hatten also requested municipal representatives to advise others who may be interested in sitting on the Committee.

## Other Business

Amanda Healy noted that herself, Laura McDougall and Rob Hatten are working on a training session on accessibility to be presented to all councillors in Grey County at the upcoming joint orientation session in December.

There was a suggestion to share the training information at the next Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting.

Christina McDonald discussed a recent forum she attended called “Accessibility is Good For Business” which was intended to showcase best practices and what businesses need to comply, etc. Ms. McDonald spoke to the importance of acknowledging a large scope of disabilities when designing sessions such as these.

## Next Meeting Dates

A meeting will be scheduled in 2015.

On motion by Jim Gow, the meeting adjourned at 3:13 PM.

Accessibility Advisory Committee  
October 28, 2014

Dwight Burley, Chair