Accessibility Advisory Committee
June 23, 2015 – 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; 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; Sarah Morrison, Intermediate Planner; and Kathie Nunno, Recording Secretary

Municipal Representatives Present: John Bell (West Grey), Holly Morrison (Georgian Bluffs),

Others Present: Chris Hachey, Trails Manager

Call to Order
Dwight Burley called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

Adoption of the Agenda

AAC04-15 Moved by: Jim Gow Seconded by: Stan Arnelien

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee agenda dated June 24, 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 April 14, 2015

These minutes are for information only as they were adopted by Grey County Council on June 2, 2015.

Deputation

Chris Hachey and Sarah Morrison attended to discuss accessibility as it relates to Grey County trails. Grey County has a contract with the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority to manage the County-owned trails and forests. Sarah Morrison works in the Planning Department and is responsible for the County trails. Chris and Sarah presented a brief overview of the design of public spaces standard for accessible trails, which falls under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

Currently, trail improvements are an annual budget item. There are opportunities to broaden the trail user base through trail improvements for accessibility where appropriate.

The St. Vincent trail is currently not fully accessible, but has opportunity to move forward should federal funding be received. Staff have submitted a grant application for this through a federal funding opportunity in celebration of Canada’s 150th year.

There are designated uses for the trails which largely include walking and cycling. The CP Rail trail, 77 km, is a multi-use trail that permits ATVs and horseback for most of its length. The Harkaway tract has ATV use as well.

The Design of Public Spaces Standard applies to newly developed or redeveloped trails only. Technical requirements of the Standard were discussed as well as the need to consult with both the Accessibility Advisory Committee and the public.

Funding partnerships have not been considered to date; however, opportunities for this could be explored.

Promoting awareness of accessible trails was discussed. The Grey County Tourism department can assist with this. The possibility of adding accessibility to a map was suggested. The communications officer will also be able to promote accessible trails in the community. The arboretum trail at Grey Sauble Conservation Authority is also accessible. This could be more of a collaborative regional project.

Winter accessibility of trails was also introduced as a consideration.

Kincardine has a Mobi-Chair which is a high quality, floating beach wheelchair that provides a seamless transition from boardwalk to beach to water.
Chair Burley thanked Sarah Morrison and Chris Hachey for their presentation.

Proposed Administration Building Addition

Chair Burley provided a brief overview of accessible features of the proposed building and advised the Committee will have more opportunities to provide input as the project progresses. The administration building task force meets again on August 11th with an estimated presentation to the Accessibility Advisory Committee by Anne Marie Shaw, Director of Housing and Chair Burley in the fall.

Rural Transportation Study Update

Barb Fedy provided an update on the rural transportation study and advised recent grant funding will be used to purchase software to help coordinate transportation providers and improve regional coverage. The lead operator is Home and Community Support Services and a consultant, Lough Barnes, has been recruited to work with service providers. The program has a two year timeframe and next steps include creating a governance structure, formulating agreements and setting up administration.

Augmented Reality at Grey Roots Museum

Petal Furness introduced herself and spoke about accessibility at Grey Roots. A contractor is developing a piece of software that a museum guest can download to their smart phone or tablet using WIFI. Grey Roots will also have tablets available to borrow. The guest holds the tablet up to a building or exhibit piece and on the tablet, a 3D version of a narrator, Garnet Goodwill, gives the history and tells about that particular feature. Visitors can see a 360 degree viewing of what happens inside an area that a visitor may not actually be able to physically enter. When the tablet is moved, the visual moves as well. The app also outlines how to get to various features including washrooms, etc.

Future embellishments include adding additional language options and sign language as well as expanding the content.

The Grey County information technology staff were a great help in bringing this opportunity to fruition.

Correspondence

There was none.

Other Business
The provincial government has announced a ten-year action plan for the AODA. One area of focus is around accessible employment opportunities for everyone.

The Healthy Communities Partnership had a meeting at which Rob Hatten attended and presented. Rob was asked to provide leadership for accessible documentation and to provide templates and approaches for both paper and electronic accessible documentation. Fall training for this is anticipated for sharing with the communities.

Petal provided an overview of what’s happening at Grey Roots.

Christina spoke about a seven-day sight and sound festival. This has inspired consideration for accessibility needs for a whole-day outing. Rob can email his accessibility coordinator contacts to ask about idea sharing for festival accessibility.

The Georgian Bluffs municipal building is accessible and there will be an addition to the building in the near future.

There are old maps out there that need to be updated. Heather Morrison will pass that information on to the Tourism staff to pull outdated maps off the website. Hotel/motel, camp grounds and businesses were cited as no longer being current.

Next Meeting Date

**Thursday, September 3, 2015 at 1:00 PM in the Boardroom at Grey Roots Museum & Archives**

On motion by David Mollison, the meeting adjourned at 3:08 PM.

Dwight Burley, Chair