|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Accessibility Advisory Committee Agenda** |

Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Location: Haldimand County Administration Building – Haldimand Room

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Members: John Pack, Barb Horton, Judy Duggan, Janet DeVos, Audrey Doxtdator

Regrets: Marianne Kidd, Frank Rao, Andrew Poirier, Councillor Patterson

Others: Brian Grice, Accessibility Coordinator, Customer Experience & Communications

Erin Haase, Project Manager, Communications

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Call to order

Meeting called to order at 2:38 p.m.

1. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

None noted.

1. Approval of previous Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting dated September 21, 2023

Moved by Janet, seconded by Judy.

1. Membership Update – Ashley

Brian announced that Ashley Everets will be stepping down from the committee for maternity leave. Potential replacement member to be reviewed in the New Year.

1. Annual Compliance Report Update

Compliance report filed by Haldimand in November 2024. Website still indicated as non-compliant but a plan is already in place for that. Second area of non-compliance noted for picnic tables in outdoor areas. Third area of non-compliance is committee not comprised of a majority of disabled members. Asked to become compliant by the end of the year. Advised by the County that efforts will be made as best as we can.

Discussions around the difficulty of recruiting members and the potential barriers that lead to the non-compliance for the committee makeup.

1. Annual Report Update

Accessibility reports back to council annually, noted that all goals for 2023 have been met. Copies of report to be distributed to committee after approval

1. Highlight of 2023 Successes

* 5-year accessibility plan was ratified
* Design standards
* National accessibility week
* High membership
* Website underway
* Policies and procedures updated

1. Accessibility Design Standards Update

Senior management in support of the update. Going to council for January 16 meeting.

1. General business

a: Staffing Update

Brian announced his resignation from the County effective Friday, Dec. 8, 2023. Has accepted a new job with Brant County. Has left three years of planning for the incoming employee.

Committee to be advised when a new Accessibility Coordinator is hired. Kyra advised that she will be the contact for the committee until a new employee is hired.

b. Kinsmen Hall, Cayuga

Brian has brought up concerns to staff liaison. Changes have not been implemented as of yet. As part of future plans, should the Accessibility Enhancement Fund be approved, Kinsmen upgrades are flagged to be addressed.

Example cost provided for an automatic door opener would be approx.. $5,000 on a pre-established building, where an older building would run approx.. $7,000-$8,000.

Ask for yearly Enhancement Fund is $50,000 pending Council approval. It is intended that the Accessibility Committee would rank potential upgrades and decide how the money is spent.

1. Text messaging service

Audrey inquired about the possibility of the County providing a text messaging service to accommodate residents who are deaf. Noted that this isn’t something we currently have, Brian and Kyra to look into it and bring it back to the group.

1. Intercom systems

Audrey raised concerns around any public buildings who utilize and intercom system for entry. Noted this may not be accessible for residents with hearing challenges. For the County, no buildings are identified as utilizing a public intercom.

1. In-house legal representation

Audrey inquiry if there’s anyone working within the County with a legal background to address legal issues around compliance. Noted that Haldimand County contracts out solicitor services. Audrey identified that she was available for employment for this should it be required.

1. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m. Moved by Barb, seconded by Janet.

1. Next Meeting: TBD