



ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**Meeting No. 9 Held Thursday, April 26, 2012 at 9:30 a.m.
Held at South Georgian Bay Community Health Centre Board Room,
45th Street & Ramblewood. Wasaga Beach**

ATTENDANCE: Fred Heyduk, Chair
John Robbins, Vice Chair
Michelle Heyduk, Secretary
Andrea Abbott-Kokosin
Ruth Angel
Frank Nunnaro
Mark Ruttan
Kelly Robertson
Councillor Morley Bercovitch
Twyla Nicholson, Clerk

John Fisher, Ontario Parks Superintendent

REGRETS: Gerry Reinders, Manager Facilities, Parks & Recreation

1. CALL TO ORDER

Fred Heyduk, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

The Chair extended thanks to John and Twyla for their help in Fred and Michelle's absence over the winter.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST - None

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – March 22, 2012

The Committee deferred the March 22, 2012 minutes to the May 24th meeting.

4. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Mr. John Fisher, Ontario Parks Superintendent re Proposal for an accessible location on the beach for activities

Mr. Fisher was invited to the meeting to discuss a proposal to designate an accessible area on the beach for activities for those individuals with disabilities.

Mr. Fisher expressed that Ontario Parks is interested in working with the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) to enhance the lives of people with disabilities, commenting on the new comfort stations. The proposal fits well with the direction of the Park and the Ministry's new Management Plan to actively manage the activities on the beachfront and keep current with societal needs.

Mr. Fisher discussed various aspects of the planning process such as an environmental assessment, options, maintenance, location, triggers such as public issues, concerns, and public consultation.

Mr. Fisher and the Committee discussed options for the ideal location; it was agreed that Beach Area 2 held the most potential with the least concern and will also have the first mobi-mat installed in that location which will work quite well together. Mr. Fisher advised that although a hard surface will not be able to be built on the beach as he anticipates concerns, he has a feasible accessible location in mind. Frank was of the opinion that Beach Area 1 held a lot of potential a high demand for use. The two options for an accessible area of 112' x 80' were discussed: determine the demand and then build it or build it and create the demand.

A discussion was held regarding the different ways to manage the maintenance of the area; it was suggested that students could be used to fulfill their community volunteer hours. Depending on the circumstances and workload, Parks staff may also be used to maintain the area.

Mr. Fisher advised that he will forward the proposal to the Ministry Planning staff in Huntsville for review as well as to the Peterborough architectural staff for design ideas.

Mr. Fisher will contact the Clerk to coordinate a site visit at Beach Area 2.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Accessible designated areas on the beach – dealt with under Delegations

6. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS - Mobi-Mats Subcommittee Report:

- Councillor Bercovitch advised that Mark Crowe, Hamont (Stonebridge) has committed to sponsoring and funding (approx \$16,000) the first mobi-mat to be installed at Beach Area 1 or 2; Mr. Fisher suggested the first mobi-mat be installed at Beach Area 2; signs will be needed as well
- Parkbridge expressed interest in sponsoring a mat
- Newly formed Lions Club asked that Councillor Bercovitch give a presentation to consider sponsoring a mat
- Brief discussion on wooden boardwalk at Beach Area 4, which does not meet current standards, that could be replaced with a mat
- Chair thanked Councillor Bercovitch and Mark for their work on the project
- Mark Crowe will contact and deal directly with the manufacturer for the purchase of the mobi-mat
- The Clerk commended the Committee on the work it did to identify a barrier to accessing the beach, researched, and in cooperation with Ontario Parks initiated last year's pilot project to implement mobi-mats to provide accessibility to the beach, secured funding and in partnership with Ontario Parks and private business/organizations will successfully remove a barrier to the beach
- The media and Mayor and Council will be asked to attend the installation of the first mobi-mat

7. NEW BUSINESS

a) Staff/Council Update

- i) Twyla Nicholson, Clerk:
 - attending the Integrated Accessibility Standards Workshop on May 4th
 - away June 18th to 20th at the Conference, returning the day of the June AAC meeting
 - reviewing available grants for accessibility projects
- ii) Gerry Reinders, Manager of Parks, Facilities and Recreation – not in attendance
- iii) Councillor Morley Bercovitch
 - Wasaga Beach is gearing up for a lot of events for the summer

b) “We Assist” Program

- “We Assist” Program is in place at the Superstore and Wal-Mart; Foodland has it posted in its window
- It was noted that Creemore has a buzzer outside that people with disabilities can use; the attendants in the store will bring out a ramp for people who require it to enter the store

Andrea entered the meeting.

c) County garbage pickup – accommodation for people with disabilities

- Fred questioned how to deal with this matter
- Clerk will contact the Accessibility Coordinator, Stephanie Smith, of the County of Simcoe to make a presentation to Committee regarding accessibility measures that the County has taken for garbage pickup

- Stephanie will also be asked to share any information she has regarding a possible Regional Accessibility Fair
- Members advised of the upcoming Hike for Hospice and Walk for Dogs events; need old towels for the dogs
- Breaking Down Barriers:
 - John advised that two new members from Wasaga Beach have been appointed to the Board of Directors – Derek Bowers, Town of Wasaga Beach and Val Dickson, YMCA
 - Strategic direction is to have more presence in the Beach
 - An update for Breaking Down Barriers will be put on the Agenda each month to provide the Committee an opportunity to give input regarding different activities
- Health Centre Ramp – Councillor Bercovitch will follow up

8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Breaking Down Barriers Update

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

May 24, 2012 @ 9:30 a.m.

South Georgian Bay Community Health Centre Board Room
45th Street & Ramblewood, Wasaga Beach

Future meetings scheduled 4th Thursday of month at 9:30 a.m.:

June 21/12; September 27/12; October 25/12; November 22/12

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.