



Staff Report

Human Resources

Report To: Committee of the Whole
Meeting Date: March 18, 2019
Report Number: FAF.19.039
Subject: Grey County Joint Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee Membership
Prepared by: Jennifer Moreau, Director of Human Resources

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.19.039, entitled "Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee Membership";

AND THAT Council recommend that the Town of The Blue Mountains participate in the Grey County Joint Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee.

B. Overview

This is a report that asks Council to recommend that the Town of The Blue Mountains joins the Grey County Joint Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee. The Grey County Joint Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee advises County Council and participating local municipalities on ways to remove barriers in services and provides recommendations for making the County more accessible.

C. Background

The Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2011 (ODA) requires municipalities with 10,000 or more residents to establish an accessibility advisory committee (AAC). The role of an AAC is to provide advice and assist County Council and participating local municipalities in promoting and facilitating a barrier-free Grey County for citizens of all abilities. The committee is responsible for reviewing municipal policies, programs and services and consults on the creation and implementation of multi-year accessibility plans.

In 2018, Grey County Council voted to create a joint municipal accessibility advisory committee together with Grey County local municipalities that wish to participate on this committee. Although only municipalities with more than 10,000 residents are required to have an AAC, there are many benefits for smaller municipalities to participate. The Grey County Joint Municipal Accessibility Advisory committee meets approximately four times per year. Meeting minutes are circulated to Grey County Council and all participating local municipalities, through their staff representation. The term of the committee is four years, aligned with the term of council. Participating local Grey County municipalities include Georgian Bluffs, Grey Highlands,

Hanover, Southgate, and West Grey. Under the ODA, a municipal AAC must include 50% plus one of persons with disabilities. The remaining voting members can include political representation, staff and interested members of the public. The recently updated Terms of Reference for the joint AAC states the committee will include up to seven members total, including one member of Grey County Council.

D. Analysis

To participate in the joint committee Grey County requires a resolution of our Council. The Town currently has an Accessibility Committee comprised of internal staff who have a vested interest or are subject matter experts in accessibility. The human resources department feels that joining the Grey County committee will be valuable to help aid in updating our own multi-year accessibility plan and to learn from others to enhance best practice within our municipality.

E. The Blue Mountains Strategic Plan

Goal #4: Promote a Culture of Organizational & Operational Excellence
Objective #1 To Be an Employer of Choice
Objective #3 To Consistently Deliver Excellent Customer Service
Objective #4 To Be a Financially Responsible Organization
Objective #5 Constantly Identify Opportunities to Improve Efficiencies and Effectiveness

F. Environmental Impacts

Not Applicable

G. Financial Impact

The only expense for participation will be the mileage to attend 4 meetings at Grey County annually.

H. In Consultation With

Sarah Traynor, Health and Safety & Human Resources Coordinator

Shawn Everitt, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has not been subject to a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. Comments regarding this report should be submitted to Jennifer Moreau, Director Human Resources, hr@thebluemountains.ca.

J. Attached

1. Joint AAC Invitation Letter from Grey County

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Moreau
Director of Human Resources

For more information, please contact:
Jennifer Moreau
hr@thebluemountains.ca
519-599-3131 extension 244

595 9th Avenue East, Owen Sound Ontario N4K 3E3
519-376-2205 / 1-800-567-GREY / Fax: 519-376-8998

December 20, 2018

Grey County Clerks:

On Thursday November 8, 2018, Grey County Committee of the Whole endorsed a terms of reference supporting a joint Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee. As such, Grey County is inviting all local municipalities to participate in this voluntary committee. You can find a copy of the Terms of Reference attached to this letter.

The joint committee will support a more consistent approach to accessibility across the County. It will provide more opportunities for recruitment and will keep municipalities compliant with provincial legislation.

We understand some municipalities in Grey County already have well-established accessibility committees that are doing great things in your communities and participating on the joint committee would not be effective. If that is the case, we hope you will consider sending a staff member to the joint accessibility advisory committee meetings as an opportunity to observe, learn and share best practices.

The new term of council is now in place and it's important we continue moving forward. Please let me know as soon as possible if your municipality will or will not be participating on the joint committee. If you have any questions about the terms of reference or the logistics of the committee, please don't hesitate to contact me or our manager of communications, Rob Hatten, at rob.hatten@grey.ca.

I look forward to your response.

Yours truly,

Heather Morrison
Clerk
(519) 372-0219 ext. 1376
heather.morrison@grey.ca
www.grey.ca

Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee

Purpose:

To comply with ODA and AODA legislation and to provide recommendations to Grey County Council participating local municipal councils, regarding accessibility-related issues and improvements to services.

Participating local municipalities include:

Scope of Responsibility:

- a) Advise councils each year about the preparation, implementation and effectiveness of each municipality's multi-year accessibility plan.
- b) Provide advice when requested by Council on the accessibility for persons with disabilities to a building, structure or premises:
 - a. Purchased, constructed, majorly renovated, owned or operated by Grey County and participating municipalities;
 - b. Considered for lease;
 - c. Provided as a municipal capital facility under an agreement, in accordance with the *Municipal Act*.
- c) Review in a timely manner the site plans and drawings described under Section 41 of the *Planning Act* when requested.
- d) In response to circulated plans, the Committee will review and provide timely comment to the appropriate council, or its designates, on site plans prepared for major renovations and newly constructed developments including new commercial, institutional, industrial, major residential and other development subject to site plan control under a participating municipality.
- e) Perform other functions required by the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and its regulations.
- f) Reviewing programs and services and provided accessibility advice to make practices more inclusive.

Voting Membership

The Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee will consist of up to seven members. Membership will include

- a) The majority of voting members must be persons with disabilities, as defined under the AODA;

- b) A caregiver of a person with a disability;
- c) A public advocate for people with disabilities with a high degree of accessibility knowledge.
- d) One representative from Grey County Council

Members will be appointed by County Council for the term of council and members are eligible for re-appointment.

Non-Voting Members

The Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee's non-voting members will consist of:

- a) One staff resource from each participating local municipality
- b) Grey County staff responsible for accessibility

Chair and Vice Chair:

The Chair and Vice Chair shall be elected from the voting membership annually.

Meetings:

Meetings will occur at the call of the Chair, or as determined by the committee (approximately four times per year).

Quorum:

A quorum shall consist of more than 50% of the membership of the Committee.

Compensation:

Public voting members will be reimbursed mileage or other similar travel costs.

Statutory Authority:

Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA)

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)

Grey County Procedural By-Law

Local Municipal Procedural By-Laws

Reporting Relationship:

The Accessibility Advisory Committee will report to Grey County Committee of the Whole and meeting minutes will be circulated with the participating local municipalities.

Lead Staff:

Designated Grey County accessibility coordinator

Terms of Reference

Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee

Endorsed by Grey County Council Date November 22, 2018

Designated liaison for each local municipality

County Clerk

Grey County Deputy Clerk/ Legislative Coordinator