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|  | | | | **Minutes of:** | | **ACCESSIBILITY advisory COMMITTEE** | | | | | | |
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| **Date:** | | April 22nd , 2025 | | | | | **Time:** | 4:31 pm – 5:20 pm. |
| **Location:** | | Hybrid | | | | | **Page:** | 7 |
| **Chair:** | | Tina | | | | | **Recorder** | Ayesha Sajid |
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| **File Name:** | | **Accessibility Advisory Committee** | | | | |  | | **Guest: Tommaisna Conte** | | | |

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|  | ITEM | DISCUSSION | | ACTION | |
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| **Welcome** |  | |  | |
| **Adoption of Agenda** | Agenda – Accepted as presented. | | **Motion to adopt by Brian**  **Seconded by Karyn** | |
| Red Shirt Day (Picture) | Everyone welcomed Tommy, the Manager of the Communication Department. Tommy assisted in taking a group photo for Red Shirt Day. | |  | |
| Red Shirt Day- May 28th & National Accessibility Week May 25th- 31st | Ayesha informed Tommy that there were two primary concerns the Committee wanted to discuss with her. One is that AAC is not well-advertised and is invisible, especially to the residents whose townships don't have it and aren't aware that Oxford County's AAC is there to assist. Secondly, AAC wants external support to be displayed for Red Shirt Day.  So, Tommy proposed a few options for AAC to be visible through  1) public-facing outreach focus(one focus area each year) in the spring or fall on educational topics, e.g., hidden disabilities. Some dates to consider for educational content:  **Sept 23rd** –International Day of Sign Languages.  **Oct 10th** – World Mental Health Day (also World Inclusion Day)  **Dec 3rd** –International Day of Persons with Disabilities  2) Mid-year collaboration with key partners/stakeholders, e.g., Area Municipal Councils. For Red Shirt Day, there will be a post featuring AAC(introductory content), what it does, achievements, and a Red Shirt Day post featuring Councillors. This year's Joint Accessibility Meeting can also be another platform for AAC to promote its work. **Action:** Ayesha will contact Trevor from Blandford Blenheim and ask for the meeting details.  3) Media coverage: Talk about an accessibility-relevant topic/issue that the AAC wants to bring attention to via Rogers TV. Going to the Council and getting media coverage can be another option.  Karyn suggested that, like Norwich, which has shared information on its accessible playground, AAC can do that via success stories, i.e., municipalities that AAC has provided consultations on their accessible projects. Having a table at community events can be another possibility to be visible to the community. Ayesha also suggested writing an informational piece on National Accessibility Week and Red Shirt Day by researching or personalizing it and explaining how recognition of these days is crucial. | |  | |
| AAC role & goals (2025) | The Committee reviewed the Terms of Reference and discussed how AAC can fulfill its mandate and role.1) Stay updated on the Federal, Municipal, and Provincial government directives and regulations. **Action:** Ayesha will sign up for e-alerts. 2) Conduct research on accessibility issues within Oxford County. Pauline added that Indigenous communities are mostly not included in research concerning disability. So, the data doesn't present accurate numbers and facts. Provide bi-monthly content for education and awareness of accessibility-related issues.3) Prioritize the disability issues: figure out topics to create awareness, promote best practices, and bring the Council's attention to those topics. Eventually, the Council will support providing a budget for AAC's education, which it previously rejected. **Action:** AAC will think about accessibility-relevant topics that will be discussed in the next meeting, and a topic will be selected. 4) Report to Council on the effectiveness of the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan- to which Ayesha added that the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan previously reviewed and approved by the AAC hasn't still gone to the Council for approval and will need another revision by the AAC. | |  | |
| FADS 2007/ 2021 & Oxford County's Accessibility Assessment Checklist | AAC has previously passed a motion that "the County Council adopt/adapt FADS 2021."  AAC also recommended that "the final draft of Oxford County's Accessibility Assessment Checklist be made into a policy that is consulted for retrofits and new Oxford County-owned buildings."  Ayesha has a meeting with the Facilities staff and update the AAC in the next meeting. | |  | |
| Other outstanding items | Sunflower program: exploring other ways, if not the membership, to spread awareness about the Sunflower symbol and educate people on hidden disabilities.  AAC also discussed having a joint venture with Area Municipalities to raise accessibility flags during National Accessibility Week- which needs to be approved by Ben. | |  | |
| Next Sub-Committee Meeting |  | |  | |
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| **Next In-Person Meeting Date & Time** | The date and place for the next meeting are June 17th, 2025, at OCAB, Room 129, from 4:30 pm - to 6:30 pm. | |  | |
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