

**Minutes of the First (1st) meeting of the
Hearst Accessibility Committee
February 4, 2016**

The first (1st) meeting of this Committee took place at noon hour in the Hearst Town Hall conference room, located at 925 Alexandra Street.

In attendance: Anne-Marie Portelance, President, André Rhéaume, Marcel Dillon, Chantal Dillon, Julie Lanoix, Agathe Cheff and Jean-Paul Grondin

1. Opening

President Anne-Marie Portelance opened the meeting at 12:12 pm and welcomed the members.

2. Review of the last Executive Committee meeting minutes (November 12, 2015)

Anne-Marie Portelance reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting.

3. Business arising from previous minutes (November 12, 2015)

The Chair asked the members for their opinion concerning the little video that has been put together by Mrs. Rachel Bernard's grade 11 students. This video was presented on the International Day for Persons with Disabilities that was held on December 3, 2015. Members said that they were very impressed. The video can be seen on the Hearst Accessibility Committee's Facebook page. Anne-Marie Portelance suggested that the committee presents a "Volunteer of the Hearst Accessibility Committee" certificate to everyone who participated in this project. The President also suggested to forward this video to the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario.

Julie Lanoix suggested that a link to the Facebook page of the Committee be added to the Town of Hearst's website. Members supported this suggestion.

4. New Business

- André Rhéaume announced that there will be no handicapped parking at the Heritage Sawmill Marketplace. Marcel Dillon explained that the Town already has an impressive amount of parking spaces for disabled people. In addition, this building is only used on a seasonal basis.
- Anne-Marie Portelance consulted the members concerning the choice of the guest for the next public meeting in April. Chantal Dillon suggested inviting a pharmacist from the Novena pharmacy. Members all agreed. The President will take appropriate action.

- The Chair suggested that the Committee evaluates the Municipality's sidewalks during the summer of 2016 as mentioned by Agathe Cheff at a previous meeting. The Committee will therefore go ahead with this assessment. Marcel Dillon explained to members the process used by the Town to keep all sidewalks safe.
- Anne-Marie Portelance wonders about the "Assemblée de la francophonie de l'Ontario" 's membership fees. The Hearst Accessibility Committee is a subcommittee of the Town of Hearst and the Municipality is already a member of the AFO. The president will contact their office to clarify this matter.
- Julie Lanoix and Anne-Marie Portelance mentioned that they didn't attend the "Assemblée de la francophonie de l'Ontario's" meeting that was held on January 27, 2016 in North Bay because their driver had to decline her offer for personal reason.
- Marcel Dillon explained the reason for the "Campaign on the caribou's protection zone to save our municipality."
- André Rhéaume announced that the Hearst Public Library has made an application to Canada 150 in order to make their building more accessible.
- The Committee wishes to invite the new Town's Chief Administrative Officer, Yves Morissette, to attend the next Executive Committee meeting to be held on Friday June 3, 2016. The president will transmit the invitation.

5. Tip of the month

- **Benefits for children under 25**
The Canada Pension Plan (CPP) children's benefits provide monthly payments to the dependent children of disabled or deceased CPP contributors.
<http://www.esdc.gc.ca/en/cpp/child.page?>

6. Adjournment:

- President adjourned the meeting at 1:14 p.m.

The next public meeting will be held on Wednesday April 20, 2016 in the Heritage Sawmill Marketplace. The next Executive Committee meeting will take place on Friday June 3, 2016 at 12:00 pm (noon hour) in the Town Hall conference room.

Anne-Marie Portelance, President