

**Minutes of the Fifth (5th) meeting of the
Hearst Accessibility Committee
November 12, 2015**

The fifth (5th) meeting of this Committee took place at noon hour in the Hearst Town Hall municipal council hall, located at 925 Alexandra Street.

In attendance: Anne-Marie Portelance, President, André Rhéaume, Agathe Cheff, Julie Lanoix and Chantal Dillon.

1. Opening

President Anne-Marie Portelance opened the meeting at 12:13 pm and welcomed the members.

2. Review of the last Executive Committee meeting minutes (September 17, 2015)

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

3. Business arising from previous minutes (June 18, 2015)

The president gave a follow-up regarding the participation of high school students to the international day of disabled persons (3 December 2015). She explained that Julie Lanoix, Claire Forcier and herself have met twice with Mrs. Rachel Mercier's grade 11 class (6 and 29 October 2015). Students have chosen to edit a video based entirely on the disabled person. A third meeting will be schedule soon..

4. New Business

- A.M. Portelance informed the members that the J.D. Levesque park's audit has been done on September 29th, 2015. She thanked Julie Lanoix, Ghislain Allard, Michelle Côté, Kent Mcrae, Chantal Dillon and Jean-Paul Grondin for their precious collaboration. Concerning audits, president added that she will keep on trying to reach Marie Lebel to set a date to carry out the assessment of the Écomusée's building.
- Agathe Cheff suggested that the town's sidewalks be evaluate next summer.
- André Rhéaume questioned about when the Ontario Direct Funding Self-Managed attendant program will moves forward with its advertising for the Hearst area. The President will check with Jennifer Merchant from the disABILITY Resource Centre in Kapuskasing.

- Julie Lanoix indicated that during the last federal election, she noticed certain gaps regarding accessibility to her polling station. At the polling booth, she noticed that it was poorly lit. The light in the room didn't reach the booth. As a visually impaired person, this situation caused her serious problems. She asked to vote in a more enlightened voting booth. Instead, they offered her to read her the list of candidates on the ballot in order and help her check the right box. J. Lanoix suggested that at the next ballot, Election Canada should appeal to people with disabilities to verify if an office is well and truly accessible before voting day.
- The president informed the members that the Medical Centre now has two parking spaces for scooters. She also mentioned that the René Fontaine Municipal Airport has a new handicapped parking space. The committee is very pleased to see such progress in the accessibility field.

5. Tip of the month

- **Healthy Homes Renovation Tax Credit:** is a permanent, refundable personal income tax credit for seniors and family members who live with them. If you qualify, you can claim up to \$10,000 worth of eligible home improvements on your tax return. The amount of money you get back for these expenses is calculated as 15 per cent of the eligible expenses you claim.
<http://www.ontario.ca/page/healthy-homes-renovation-tax-credit>

6. Adjournment:

- President adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

The next Executive Committee meeting will take place on Thursday February 4, 2016 at 12:00 pm (noon hour) in the Town Hall conference room. The next public meeting will be held on April, 2016 in the Heritage Sawmill Marketplace.

Anne-Marie Portelance, President