

**Minutes of the Fourth (4th) meeting of the
Hearst Accessibility Committee
December 2, 2016**

The fourth (4th) meeting of this Committee took place at noon in the Hearst Town Hall conference room, located at 925 Alexandra Street.

In attendance: Anne-Marie Portelance, President, Yves Morrissette, Marc Dufresne, André Rhéaume, Marcel Dillon, Julie Lanoix, Agathe Cheff, Jean-Paul Grondin and Aline Morissette.

1. Opening

President opened the meeting at 12:10 pm. She welcomed all members, including Yves Morrissette, the Town's Chief Administrative Officer and Marc Dufresne who will soon replace Marcel Dillon.

2. Hearst Accessibility Committee's PowerPoint presentation

The President began the presentation by explaining the meaning of the committee's logo. She went on to describe how, in 2006, she shared the idea of forming an accessibility committee with André Rhéaume, municipal councillor. Meetings were then held with Councilor Katrina Carrera and Patricia Simone from the Kapuskasing Accessibility Committee. The first meeting in order to set up the Hearst Accessibility Committee took place on December 18, 2007. Founding members are: André Rhéaume, Katrina Carrera, Janice Newsome and Anne-Marie Portelance.

In order to conform to the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA), the Town of Hearst elaborated a multi-year accessibility plan, then also approved the Policy on Accessible Customer Service.

A.M. Portelance underlined the committee's vision:

- That Town of Hearst services, programs, infrastructure and buildings be accessible to all.

President then drew the attention on the committee's mandate:

- Plan, identify and monitor accessibility;
- Establish priorities and strategies;
- Remove and prevent obstacles that affect our municipality's services;
- Present the above to the Town Council for approval
- Establish links with various local and regional services and agencies.

The president then named each of the current board members: André Rheume, Marcel Dillon, Chantal Dillon, Agathe Cheff, Julie Lanoix, Jean-Paul Grondin and Aline Morissette. She then specified each of their tasks.

Julie Lanoix enumerated the list of the Accessibility committee's various partners.

A.M.Portelance explained how the committee conducts its audits. A written report with photos then summarizes all the proceedings. The Chair then reviewed all the audits that have been carried out by the Committee.

The Chair then provided an overview of the committee's accomplishments. She pointed out the Committee's presence through its Facebook page, interviews or message on the local radio station, chronicles in the local newspaper, the municipality's and the Hearst Health Crossroad's web sites, at the Springfest or at various fairs or forums.

The Committee's regular meetings are held four times a year and the public meetings, are held in April and October. A.M. Portelance named the guests who took part.

J. Lanoix cited recognitions received by the committee of which an article on Anne-Marie Portelance published in the "Assemblée de la francophonie de Ontario" bulletin and two recognition letters from the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario for presentations done by the committee in Thunder Bay and Timmins.

The Chair gave an overview of current and future projects. She concluded by thanking all current and former committee members, all the volunteers, the Town of Hearst, the participants and guests attending public meetings, the Club Photo, Club Action / the Age-Friendly Community and Notre Dame Hospital.

3. Report from the last public meeting (October 25, 2016)

A.M.Portelance included the last public meeting's report.

4. New Business

- The president needs volunteers for the Committee's public meetings.
- A.M. Portelance noted that Companion Restaurant re-installed their accessible parking signs.

4. Adjournment:

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

The next Executive Committee meeting will take place on Friday, February 10, 2017 at 12:00 pm (noon hour) in the Town Hall conference room. The next public meeting will be held on April, 2017 at the Heritage Sawmill Marketplace.

Anne-Marie Portelance, President