



## MUNICIPAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 – 4:30 p.m.  
Council Chambers – 77 Beckwith Street North, Smiths Falls

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### ATTENDANCE:

<b>Members Present:</b>	Chair, D. Hudson L. Allen J. Davis K. Vandermeer
<b>Members Absent:</b>	Councillor C. McGuire
<b>Staff Present:</b>	K. Grenke, Manager of Development Services Mary Remmig, Planning Clerk
<b>Guests:</b>	G. German

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

D. Hudson called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.  
A quorum was present.

### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented.

*Moved: L. Allen*

*Seconded: J. Davis*

*CARRIED (4-0)*

### 3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- i) The minutes of the Municipal Heritage Committee meeting held on January 23, 2024 were approved as presented.

*Moved: K. Vandermeer*

*Seconded: L. Allen*

*CARRIED: (4-0)*

**4. DISCLOSURE OF MONETARY INTERESTS**

None at this time.

**5. DELEGATIONS**

i) George German, Chair – Rideau Lakes Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee

G. German proposal that individuals of the Rideau Lakes Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee be presenters for the 2024 Heritage Symposium. G. Germ discussed the efforts of the Committee and the aspects of their efforts which could be presented.

L. Allen suggested that, when appointed, the Symposium Working group connect with G. German on his suggestion.

D. Hudson supported the notion of the Committee coming forward with a brief presentation to the next Symposium.

**6. PRIORITY ISSUES**

i) Confederation Bridge Design

K. Grenke gave an overview of P. McMunn's presentation at the Committee meeting on February 6, 2024 and the proceedings of the meeting.

L. Allen read allowed a motion prepared for the Committee's consideration.

K. Vandermeer agreed with the replacement bridge suggestion noted in the draft motion.

K. Grenke noted that Council is responsible for decision making and understands the motion is intended to convey the Committee's interest to Council.

J. Davis felt that the draft motion reminded her of the importance of the bridge and its connection to the surrounding landscape.

L. Allen expressed concern with Council's choice of inspiration for the replacement bridge as it is modern in design and height and would not connect with the surrounding landscaping.

K. Grenke advised that the motion will be presented to Committee of the Whole by way of staff report.

K. Vandermeer suggested the Committee attend.

**Motion #MHC-24-01**

WHEREAS the Town has engaged heritage consultants to conduct an area study for

the purpose of designating a Downtown Heritage Conservation District, the boundaries of which have not yet been determined but, could include the area where the original bridge is situated;

WHEREAS the Municipal Heritage Committee is concerned with the preservation of the integrity of the cultural heritage landscape which includes a direct view to two designated properties immediately downriver (former Water Treatment Plant [25 Old Mill Road] and Wood Mill Complex [34 Beckwith Street South]) and a UNESCO World Heritage site immediately upriver, the stone arch bridge and adjacent park spaces;

WHEREAS the outcome for the Water Treatment Plant (25 Old Mill Road), a designated heritage property, could be affected by the replacement bridge design;

WHEREAS the original bridge was positioned close to the flowing river, a crossing which was integrated with the surrounding landscape, not raised up above it, which was a determinative factor in how the community experienced the bridge and the river;

AND WHEREAS a pedestrian-only bridge provides an opportunity to replicate that experience;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Smiths Falls Municipal Heritage Committee hereby recommends that Council of the Town of Smiths Falls selects a design for the replacement of the Confederation Bridge that commemorates the heritage landscape that surrounds it, connects to the water, and is in keeping with the scale, shape and materials of the original bridge and informed by its surroundings. With reference to the examples presented by TSI Inc, the bowstring truss bridge design in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia referenced in the January 15, 2024 presentation to Council exemplifies this concept better than any of the others;

AND THAT the Municipal Heritage Committee hereby requests the opportunity to meet with the design consultant and provide input on the design of the new bridge.

*Moved: L. Allen*

*Seconded: K. Vandermeer*

*CARRIED: (4-0)*

- ii) Grade 11 & 12 Essay Contest – History of Your Favourite Smiths Falls Property
  - i) Appointment of Judges
  - ii) Council Presentation (March 4)
  - iii) Publication of Winning Essay (Smiths Falls Journal)

M. Remmig updated the Committee on the Essay Contest. She advised that award presentations are typically done at Council meetings and thus has been scheduled for March 4. M. Remmig also advised that the Smiths Falls Journal has reached out with interest in publicizing the winning essay at no cost to the Committee. The last item of business on the Essay contest is to choose judges to review the essays and choose a winner the week of February 20<sup>th</sup>.

K. Vandermeer suggested that all Committee members participate in reviewing the

received essays.

M. Remmig stated her acceptance of this on condition that no other Committee business is advanced during the meeting in which essays are reviewed.

- iii) 2024 Heritage Symposium Planning
  - i) K. Prytula Email – Heritage Properties & Insurance

M. Remmig advised that the suggestion was given to staff in 2022 and thought the Committee may want to give the suggestions some thought based on the Town pursuing a Heritage Conservation District Study.

D. Hudson suggested the appointment of a Heritage Symposium Working Group.

L. Allen thought this year could be the year to invite speakers with successful Heritage Conservation Districts.

The group agreed to plan the 2024 Heritage Symposium together as a separate working group.

## **7. PROJECT UPDATES**

- i) Municipal Heritage Webpage – [www.smithsfalls.ca/municipalheritage](http://www.smithsfalls.ca/municipalheritage)

M. Remmig advised that the Municipal Heritage webpage was launched on the Town's website on January 26, 2024.

## **8. ROUNDTABLE**

L. Allen suggested a historic signage guideline be developed to help Downtown businesses.

M. Remmig advised she will circulate the guideline provided a by L. Allen a few years ago. M. Remmig advised that a sign guideline is on the staff work plan for 2024. She suggested a heritage section be added to specifically address the concerns of the Committee.

M. Remmig advised that the Heritage Highlights have been sent to Communications and have been scheduled to be publicized during Heritage Week.

## **9. NEXT MEETING**

- i) March 5, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

THAT, the Municipal Heritage Committee adjourn its proceedings at 5:29 p.m. and stand so adjourned until the next duly called Committee meeting.

*Motioned: K. Vandermeer*