



MUNICIPAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024 – 4:30 p.m.
Council Chambers – 77 Beckwith Street North, Smiths Falls

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present: Chair, D. Hudson
J. Davis
Councilor C. McGuire (via Zoom)
K. Vandermeer

Members Absent: L. Allen

Staff Present: K. Grenke, Manager of Development Services
Marie Elmsley, Planning Clerk
Toby Stewart, Summer Student

Guests:

1. CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

D. Hudson called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.
A quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was updated to include “Confederation Bridge Report No. 24-03, T. Stewart” as item 5.5 under Priority Issues.

Moved: K. Vandermeer

Seconded: J. Davis

CARRIED (4-0)

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- i) The Municipal Heritage Committee meeting minutes for June 11, 2024, were updated to change Section 5.3 to remove “as Properties of Interest” in the last line under “ACTION” and replace it with “....designated under the Ontario Heritage Act Part 4”.

Moved: J. Davis

Seconded: C. McGuire

CARRIED: (4-0)

4. DISCLOSURE OF MONETARY INTERESTS

None at this time.

5. PRIORITY ISSUES

i) Heritage Conservation District Update

K. Grenke advised that there is a meeting being tentatively scheduled for either August 6 or 7 for Stantec, staff, and MHC representative J. Davis to meet and receive the findings of the consultant to date. A general discussion outlined that the takeaway from that meeting will be the framework for proceeding and justification for the consultant's recommendation. It is thought that Stantec will be recommending a Heritage District for part of the downtown core. Given this, we can proceed with the HCD theme for the symposium. There was some concern with the heat mapping that we will miss properties on the border of the proposed HCD that have lots of heritage value and the committee would like to know how they are coming up with the boundaries. The consultant has been asked what other tools can be used for heritage properties outside of the HCD for preservation. The group agreed that designation of Heritage Properties of Interest could be pursued for those. More information will come available at the meeting with Stantec.

ACTION: At the August 13th MHC meeting, K. Grenke will update the committee on the progress of the HCD process.

ii) Properties of Interest

This issue will be reviewed after we receive Stantec's recommendation on the HCD.

iii) Railway Museum Roof Repairs

D. Hudson spoke with L. Allen who is on the Board for the Railway Museum and advised that the roof repairs are far down their list of priorities. L. Allen further thought that the cost of repairs should be paid for by the Town.

ACTION: The committee approved C. McGuire meeting with representatives from the Railway Museum to see if we can help with the Trillium Application funding.

iv) Heritage Pedestals

M. Elmsley advised the group that Howling Designs will be repairing Pedestals #3 (Frost and Wood), #12 (Smiths Falls Public Market Building), and # 15 (Town Hall) in the next 2 to 3 weeks. There was a general discussion about finding better longer-lasting materials for the pedestals as the current material only seems to be good for 5 years or less. The pedestals are also in need of cleaning. The committee would like to see pricing for replacement of all pedestals with more durable materials in the future. The most recent summary of the condition of the pedestals is 2022 so the committee would like to see that updated as well so we know the current state of repairs required.

ACTION: M. Elmsley to proceed with Howling Designs to make repairs as quoted for the three most urgent pedestals, those being #'s 3, 12 & 15.

ACTION: K. Grenke find out which department is responsible for cleaning the pedestals and ask that they be cleaned.

ACTION: Before budget deliberations, staff research alternate materials that are more durable using laser etching for example, and a slight redesign to include QR code link to the Town website.

v) Confederation Bridge – Report #24-03, T. Stewart

T. Stewart presented his report on the history of Confederation Bridge. The committee was enthusiastic in their praise of T. Stewart for the work put into the project and the useful information it contained. Discussion then turned to the placement of a pedestal (if that is the way the information will be eventually presented). It was thought that the Beckwith Street side of the bridge would be best as there are currently multiple pedestals on the park side. The steel from the current structure could be used in the design of the new bridge somehow and it was noted that Public Works was enthusiastic about that idea. Discussion on which budget the pedestal would come out of is yet to be determined.

6. PROJECT UPDATES

i) 2024 Heritage Symposium

The Ontario Heritage Trust has been contacted with no response to date. C. McGuire contacted the Heritage Resource Centre with no response, however, through discussion with T. Stewart he advised that he knows a professor that is a good speaker. C. McGuire will contact this professor as a potential speaker.

The theme for the symposium is Heritage Conservation Districts.

ACTION: K. Vandermeer will contact a real estate agent in Perth that he knows who may be able to either speak about selling heritage properties or direct us to an agent who can. This topic would help property owners to understand that being in a heritage district has the potential to bring value to their property and help to alleviate fear that it would detract from the property value.

ACTION: The subcommittee will meet to determine which Monday to hold the Symposium on, securing speakers etc., and come up with a title for the event and report back at the next meeting.

7. ROUNDTABLE

C. McGuire noted that the new door to Council Chambers was done without input from the committee and wonders how they can be involved in the decision-making process for town assets and town buildings in the future. He is concerned about how and where the old doors are being stored for potential use later.

Pigeons continue to be a problem on the Church Street side.

ACTION: K. Grenke to convey the concerns of the committee to facilities management including the safe storage of the council chamber doors, and the ongoing issue with pigeons.

8. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday August 13, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

THAT, the Municipal Heritage Committee adjourn its proceedings at 5:24 p.m. and stand so adjourned until the next duly called Committee meeting.

Motioned: C. McGuire