



MUNICIPAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday November 12, 2024 – 4:30 p.m.
Council Chambers – 77 Beckwith Street North, Smiths Falls

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present:	Chair, D. Hudson J. Davis K. Vandermeer
Regrets:	C. McGuire D. Quinn
Staff Present:	Marie Elmsley, Planning Clerk
Guests:	None

1. CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Call to order at 4:38 pm
A quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

Moved: K. Vandermeer
Seconded: J. Davis
CARRIED (3-0)

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The minutes for October 8, 2024, were approved as presented.

Moved: J. Davis
Second: K. Vandermeer
CARRIED: (3-0)

4. DISCLOSURE OF MONETARY INTERESTS

None.

5. PRIORITY ISSUES

i) 361 Queen Street – Heritage Easement

The committee discussed the draft motion that was sent to the Town Clerk via email from D. Hudson on October 25, 2024, as she was requested to do. (This was to ensure that Council had this as a correspondence item).

MOTION

WHEREAS the Ontario Heritage Trust maintains the existing heritage easement at 361 Queen Street, Gallipeau Centre because of the significant cultural and historical context associated with the property.

WHEREAS removing the heritage easement without having another process in place for preserving the heritage aspects of the property could leave it vulnerable to demolition.

THEREFORE, The Municipal Heritage Committee does hereby request that the Province defers any removal of the current easement until the Town establishes appropriate heritage protections in place.

Moved by: K. Vandermeer

Seconded by: J. Davis

Deferred

The group discussed the wording of the motion, noting that a better idea of what needs to be preserved is needed before deciding on this motion. The committee wanted to know more information about Council's decision to request that the easement be removed. The motion was deferred to the next meeting when council representatives would be present.

ii) Heritage Conservation District Study Update

The draft report has been released. There is nothing further pending from the MHC as the decision now rests with Council. The draft report will go to Council in December. D. Hudson indicated that the boundaries were adjusted to reflect comments about Russell Street West. She reported that the Open House held November 7th was very well set up by Stantec with poster boards etc. There was little interest from the public. There is still an opportunity for the public to comment by completing the survey now online until November 28, 2024.

iii) 2024 Symposium Summary

M. Elmsley circulated a summary that showed 2024 attendance (total 34) was down by 5 participants over 2023 (total 39). The final cost was 1,495.36. Registration shows that the same people/organizations are attending each year. We have received two replies for suggested themes next year 1) to highlight the economic benefits of Heritage Tourism and How Best to Leverage...Modernizing Historical Experiences to Draw More Visitors, and 2) Learning about people's experiences they had while renovating or researching their old homes. A general discussion included whether we skip a year, how to include more students, and gearing our themes to those who attend each year. Further discussion will happen in 2025.

iv) Old Home Week – Walking Tours – Aug 2 – 9, 2025 (Every Other Day)

The committee agreed to conduct the walking tours during Old Home Week, every other day (August 2-9, 2025).

ACTION: M. Elmsley to notify Old Home Week Committee

6. PROJECT UPDATES

i) Algonquin College Project Update

The Algonquin College Executive Summary and Properties of Interest Report was circulated, and the group gave a big thank you to the college. The group felt there were some gems found in this project. The report indicates that 34 properties require further follow-up. The committee now has many identified properties of interest to follow up on – properties identified through this project, previous properties already identified by the committee, and properties from the HCD Study that fall outside of the boundaries.

ii) Heritage Pedestals Update

M. Elmsley advised that she has received 3 quotes for replacing the heritage pedestals with raised metal lettering style plaques. Further comparison is required before presenting the quotes, but the preliminary information suggests prices ranging from \$2000 to \$6000 per plaque. This item is to be carried forward to the December or January meeting.

7. ROUNDTABLE

None.

8. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday December 10, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

THAT, the Municipal Heritage Committee adjourn its proceedings at 5:05 p.m. and stand so adjourned until the next duly called Committee meeting.

Motioned: K. Vandermeer

Seconded by: J. Davis

Carried: (3:0)