



MUNICIPAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday December 10, 2024 – 4:30 p.m.
Council Chambers – 77 Beckwith Street North, Smiths Falls

ATTENDANCE:

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

1. CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Call to order at 4:40 pm
A quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

Moved: K. Vandermeer
Seconded: C. McGuire
CARRIED (3-0)

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The minutes for November 12, 2024, were approved as presented.

Moved: C. McGuire
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).

The group discussed the issue of how the easement is perceived to be an impediment to development or sale of the property. It is unclear how the easement presents this hurdle.

The group discussed the merits of having a consultant in to determine exactly what attributes of the buildings and property should be maintained and therefore removing and uncertainty about how development can proceed. If the easement is removed, then designation is a logical replacement, and the committee could play a role in facilitating that. The committee reiterated that their mandate is to make it easier to develop while maintaining the heritage of the property.

MOTION # MCH 24-04

“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 of the Town of Smiths Falls does hereby request that the Ontario Heritage Trust defer any removal of the current easement until the Town of Smiths Falls establishes appropriate heritage protections in its place.”

Moved by: C McGuire

Seconded by: K. Vandermeer

CARRIED: (3-0)

ACTION: M. Elmsley to send the motion to the Ontario Heritage Trust and Town Council.

ACTION: M. Elmsley to request that the Ontario Heritage Trust provide details of what the easement entails and how it impacts development on the property.

ii) Heritage Conservation District Study Update

C. McGuire advised that the HCD study was approved by Council on December 9th and now the consultants can move to the next step which is to develop the plan. The discussion focused on expansion of the boundary to include more properties, namely Trinity Church, the Armory Building (Rotating Rug Rental), and the Ontario Hydro building. It was noted that with creation of the HCD with its current boundary, all but 2 commercial buildings from the committee's properties of interest list are now protected.

The properties of interest list should now include the properties from the HCD, Algonquin College Project, and the current list. The group discussed how to proceed with designation of these buildings. A form was circulated that could be modified to be used as a screening tool for the properties of interest. From there that info could be given to a consultant to develop the draft by-law(s). This discussion will be carried forward to the next meeting.

ACTION: K. Vandermeer to get address information to D. Hudson on the barn where the bread wagon for Davidson's Bread Company was, and to possibly include it on the properties of interest.

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

The timing for the tours will occur at 10:00 a.m. The volunteers are K. Vandermeer, C. McGuire, and D. Hudson. They will use the Smiths Falls Heritage Walking Tour guide as the route and basis for information to share.

ACTION: M. Elmsley to forward the names of the volunteers to the Old Home Week committee and request a copy of the schedule to date.

6. PROJECT UPDATES

i) Properties of Interest

This item was discussed in section 5.2

ii) Heritage Pedestals Update

M. Elmsley advised that she is waiting for two of the three companies who have supplied quotes to give more information so that the quotes can be compared equally. It is hoped that a report will be ready for the January meeting. The group discussed the need for more pedestals or signage in the future.

iii) 2025 Heritage Symposium

The committee discussed recruitment and the need for additional help with the Symposium. Word of mouth is the way to recruit.

7. ROUNDTABLE

Councilor McGuire noted that the roof on the and Bell Tower at Central School is slated for replacement. Currently it is proposed to replace the roof with shingles and replace the Bell Tower in its current form. The committee is interested in a more long-term approach for the roof replacement that would be more cost effective and that would add protection to the building by installing a steel roof instead of shingles. They noted that steel roof will last longer, and the material can be recycled where shingles do not last as long and end up in landfill. The Bell Tower replacement is an excellent opportunity to replace it with what was originally there instead of what is there now (not like the original). There is proposed money allotted to the budget for a ramp at the Visitors Centre (school) entrance and the committee is interested in how this will be done. The committee may have to meet before January 14th.

D. Hudson noted that there is a camp set up around the old water treatment plant and how the Confederation Bridge is a separate project. The committee is not about the ownership of salvageable material or if the photogrammetry has been started.

ACTION: M. Elmsley to determine how a start a dialogue can be had with Community Services regarding these items prior to the next council meeting and prior to the finalization of the budget.

ACTION: M. Elmsley to request an update on the status of the water treatment plant and if the salvageable items will be preserved as requested and if the photogrammetry has been completed.

8. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday January 14, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

THAT, the Municipal Heritage Committee adjourn its proceedings at 5:35 p.m. and stand so adjourned until the next duly called Committee meeting.

Motioned: K. Vandermeer

Seconded by: J. Davis

Carried: (3:0)