



## **MUNICIPAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Tuesday January 14, 2025 – 4:30 p.m.  
Council Chambers – 77 Beckwith Street North, Smiths Falls

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### **ATTENDANCE:**

**Members Present:** Chair, D. Hudson  
Councilor D. Quinn  
K. Vandermeer  
J. Davis  
**Regrets:** Councilor C. McGuire  
**Staff Present:** Marie Elmsley, Planning Clerk  
**Guests:** Jonathon Lee

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### **1. CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Call to order at 4:33 p.m.  
A quorum was present.

### **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

There was an addition under Priority Issues, Heritage Week, point 4. The agenda was approved as amended.

*Moved: J. Davis*  
*Seconded: D. Quinn*  
**CARRIED (4-0)**

### **3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

The minutes for December 10, 2024, were approved as presented.

*Moved: D. Quinn*  
*Second: K. Vandermeer*  
**CARRIED: (4-0)**

### **4. DISCLOSURE OF MONETARY INTERESTS**

None.

### **5. PRIORITY ISSUES**

#### **i) 2025 Work Plan**

The committee reviewed and updated the current work plan that spans 2022-2026. A focus will be on properties of interest this year. Most items have been achieved on the 2022-2026 Work plan.

Symposium - complete  
Heritage Register – outstanding  
HCD – in progress  
Pedestals – ongoing investigation to pricing of longer lasting materials  
Education and Initiatives – Heritage Week 2025  
Plaques – new plaques to be installed at property once designated. None to date

The Algonquin College project to be added to the work plan noting that the Perth Campus is scheduled to close in 2026.

Guest J. Lee, who recently joined the Public Art Committee, discussed the tunnel that runs under the railroad tracks near Victoria Street and its value to what was once referred to as the Shawville area. He suggested that consideration be given to it as an area of interest for heritage uses such as Walking Tours or a park and if it warranted, heritage protection. The committee discussed safety issues of the tunnel, what the original uses of it were, and a comparison to the Brockville tunnel. The committee thought further exploring the history of the area a good idea, but that the focus for 2025 will be the Properties of Interest list. The 2025 Symposium will be added to the next agenda as a lead needs to be determined.

**ACTION:** M. Elmsley to email the suggested themes for the next Symposium received to date

ii) Properties of Interest

A strategy is required to get these properties designated. In the past, there was limited success. It was decided that a proper handout is required that highlights the benefits of designation and educate against the myths about heritage designation, an incentive of some sort citing the current CIP, and inclusion of what the property owner stands to gain from official designation. The question of when the deadline is to have the properties designated was unknown at time of meeting (it's on or before January 1, 2027).

**ACTION:** D, Hudson, M. Elmsley and possibly K. Grenke to meet to develop a brochure and a better approach to homeowners.

iii) Membership Recruitment

Guest J. Lee has made application to join the MHC. Committee members should each look at possible recruits.

iv) Heritage Week February 17-23, 2025

The Heritage Highlights campaign last year was quite successful. Chose 5 properties of interest from the HCD area this year and promote in same manner.

**ACTION:** M. Elmsley and D. Hudson to develop the slide text for use on social media – one property per day starting 17-21 inclusive. Ready for review at the February 11<sup>th</sup> MHC meeting.

## **6. PROJECT UPDATES**

### **i) Street Naming By-law Update**

M. Elmsley circulated a list of potential names to use for new streets or parks in town. If there are other names that the committee think appropriate send them to M. Elmsley by the end of February. The name of McKimm was discussed as a potential.

## **7. ROUNDTABLE**

K. Vandermeer requested that more information be given by the Ontario Heritage Trust staff regarding the easement at 361 Queen and what it is they want a developer to do. The group discussed it and thought it unlikely that would happen. MHC Motion # 24-04 regarding the easement on this property was sent to Council only as the role of MCH is to advise Council. D. Quinn advised that Council is looking at all options as it is a priority. It is not the Town who will have the final say on the easement, it is the province. Ideally, a consultant would define the heritage aspects of the site, and we could designate it.

J. Davis advised that the steering committee of the HCD will meet January 15<sup>th</sup> for the first time since Council approved the study phase.

D. Quinn reiterated that Council is very interested in the advice of the MHC and that the group should continue to send suggestions. Council must deal with what is in place right now at 361 Queen. Council is trying to determine if the whole property needs to be designated, or just a portion(s) of it or some other sort of designation. She asked that the committee keep an open mind and consider what could work best at the site, what should be preserved, and what doesn't necessarily need to be. It is very important that the MHC have ideas ready to provide to Council once the province has made a decision about the easement.

## **8. NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 4:30 p.m.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

THAT, the Municipal Heritage Committee adjourn its proceedings at 5:20 p.m. and stand so adjourned until the next duly called Committee meeting.

*Motioned by: D. Quinn*