

# St. Catharines Heritage Advisory Committee

## Minutes

**Thursday, February 14, 2019**

**Burgoyne Woods Room at 4:30pm**

### **Members:**

Gail Benjafield  
John Crawley  
Dennis Gannon  
Marty Mako  
Robin McPherson  
Brian Narhi  
Holly Washuta

### **Regrets:**

Mike Sullivan

### **Staff Liaison:**

Amanda Knutson, Senior Planner, Planning and Building Services  
Vincent Wen, Student Planner, Planning and Building Services

### **Council:**

Carlos Garcia (left at 5:33pm)

### **Public:**

Colleen Beard and Mark Steiger (re: Hydraulic Raceway System)

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#### **1. Call meeting to order (Chair)**

Brian Narhi called the meeting to order at 4:34pm

#### **2. Additions/Deletions to the agenda**

n/a

#### **3. Motion to approve the agenda**

Moved by: Brian Narhi

“That the SCHAC ratify and adopt the agenda for this SCHAC meeting held on Thursday, February 14, 2019, copies having been previously distributed.”

**CARRIED**

**4. Motion to adopt the Minutes of the previous meeting**

Moved by: Brian Narhi

“That the SCHAC ratify and adopt the minutes of the SCHAC meeting held on Thursday, December 6, 2018, copies having been previously distributed.”

**CARRIED**

**5. Presentations (Invited Guests)**

Mark Steiger and Colleen Beard, re: request for commemoration of William Hamilton Merritt's Hydraulic Raceway System

**6. Business arising from the Minutes**

n/a

**7. Business**

**7.1 Request for commemoration/plaque  
William Hamilton Merritt's Hydraulic Raceway System**

Mark Steiger and Colleen Beard made a presentation to the Committee regarding William Hamilton Merritt's hydraulic raceway system. Merritt's raceway was developed for use by the various mills and manufacturing plants across the city as a form of power generation. It contributed to the growth of an integrated synergetic economy that shaped the City of St. Catharines and beyond. In 1929 the raceway was decommissioned and filled/paved over (now Race Street and Head Street).

Steiger and Beard requested that the Committee consider erecting a plaque or other commemoration piece behind the First Ontario Performing Arts Centre where remnants of the raceway exist. Other remnants exist approximately halfway up the escarpment but are not as easily accessed.

Alternatives to a typical plaque were suggested, including a talking map (uses a QR code/smart phone technology), or walking map with multiple checkpoints along a route.

The committee noted that ideally a commemoration piece would not be located on privately-owned lands given concerns about maintenance (existing issues re: overgrown vegetation obstructing the view of remnants), and would include a map, image, and background information. The committee requested the presenters consider a joint venture approach to the commemoration initiative between the SCHAC and Brock University or others.

Moved by: Robin McPherson

“That the SCHAC supports in principal a plaquing initiative to commorate the hyudraulic raceway system developed by William Hamilton Merritt and request that Mr. Steiger and Ms. Beard submit proposals to the Committee for the potential design and cost-sharing of the commemoration piece.

**CARRIED**

**7.2** Application for Designated Property Grant  
29 Yates Street (Yates Street Heritage District)  
Owner: Nizam Ali, Rock Solid Investment Group

The applicant is seeking a Designated Property Grant for interior structural repairs (\$106,194.01 in contractor costs). The Committee noted that it appears this work has already been completed, while the Grant program guidelines require that approval of applications must be granted prior to the commencement of works. The Committee suggested the matter be deferred until such time as staff can confirm the status of the works.

Moved by: John Crawley

“That consideration of the Application for Designated Property Grant for 29 Yates Street by the SCHAC be deferred pending confirmation of the status of the project.”

**CARRIED**

Carlos Garcia left at 5:33pm.

**8. Updates from Sub-Committees**

**8.1** Designations, Plaquing and Ceremonies

None

**8.2** Public Outreach and Education (POE)

None

**8.3** Research and Inventory (R & I)

None

**8.4** Heritage Districts

None

**9. Information/Correspondence**

Supporting information for 29 Yates Street

**10. Date of next meeting**

Thursday March 7, 2019

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:44pm