



City of St. Catharines

Planning and Development Services
PO Box 3012, 50 Church Street
St. Catharines, ON L2R 7C2

Phone: 905-688-5600
Fax: 905-688-5873
TTY: 905-688-4TTY (4889)

**ST. CATHARINES HERITAGE COMMITTEE (SCHC)
MINUTES**

Meeting of Thursday, February 14, 2013

PRESENT: Evan Acs
John Bacher
Gail Benjafield
Heather Foss
John Haynes
Calvin Jessome
Chris Loat
Marty Mako
Brian Narhi
Robin McPherson

STAFF: Sara Epp, Planning and Development Services
Carla Mackie, Historical Services Co-ordinator, RCS
Jim Riddell, Planning and Development Services
Britney Williamson, Planning and Development Services

REGRETS: Janet Curtis
Dennis Gannon

PUBLIC: Caroline Nolan, Canadian Federation of University Women
John Burtniak, Canadian Federation of University Women Historical
Consultant

ABSENT: Kristen Ernesaks
Mathew Siscoe, Councillor

1. CALL TO ORDER

Robin McPherson took the chair and called the meeting to order in Committee Room 1 at 5:00 p.m.

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1. Meeting of the SCHC, January 10, 2013

Moved by: Chris Loat
Seconded by: Calvin Jessome

“That the SCHC ratify and adopt the minutes of the SCHC meeting held Thursday, January 10, 2013, copies having been previously distributed.”

CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3.1 Images for Library Display

Britney Williamson provided photos of the Welland Canal and shipping for the library display, noting that additional photos can be sourced by Staff if there are gaps in the selection. Gail Benjafield questioned the inclusion of the Tall Ships in the display. Calvin Jessome noted that there are three replica tall ships confirmed for the Canada Day events, and Brian Narhi added that they are the Lynx, Unicorn and Pride of Baltimore. Jim Riddell suggested that the Committee look at the Council Agenda from Monday's Council meeting, where Patrick Little made a presentation about the Tall Ships. Calvin suggested that Staff get in touch with the museum to request loan of a model ship for the display. Britney will contact Kathleen Powell and report back at the March meeting.

4. MATTERS REFERRED FROM COUNCIL

There were no matters referred from Council.

5. DELEGATIONS

5.1 Carla Mackie, Historical Services Co-ordinator Plaquing request for Morningstar Mill

Carla Mackie made a presentation to the Committee, noting that the preservation of Morning Star Mill is now a priority for the City. Carla was hired as Historical Services Co-ordinator for Morning Star Mill, and is looking to recognize the history of the site. Carla will be preparing interpretive plaques as a separate project, but is requesting that the SCHC install designation plaques for the Mill and House. Carla provided examples of similar plaques from Thorold. Although the Committee has a few designation plaques left, it was suggested that the plaques be redesigned to distinguish between publicly and privately owned properties.

It was then,

Moved by: Heather Foss

Seconded by: John Haynes

“That the SCHC allocate funds from the 2013 budget to install two designation plaques at Morning Star Mill; and,

That the SCHC consult with Morning Star Mill to design the plaques.”

CARRIED

6. BUSINESS

6.1. Heritage Resource Inventory Update

Janet Curtis sent regrets for the meeting. Staff have requested that Janet provide any work completed to date by email or in electronic format so that the project can be completed by Staff or another member(s) of the Committee. Evan Acs noted that digitizing the inventory, including updated colour photos, is important for accessibility and ease of updating the document moving forward.

6.2. Reports from Sub-Committees

6.2.1. Designations, Plaquing and Ceremonies

6.2.1.1. Laura Secord Plaquing Project

Caroline Nolan to attend from the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW)

Caroline Nolan introduced herself and explained that the CFUW has met to discuss the location of the plaque prior to this meeting. Caroline suggested that the plaque be located on the new lookout point upon completion of the Burgoyne Bridge reconstruction. Caroline provided photos from a presentation to the Burgoyne Bridge Heritage Committee (BBHC) that conceptually illustrate the lookout point. John Burtiak, a member of the BBHC, noted that the lookout looks out over the Twelve Mile Creek, and the precise location of Laura Secord's crossing is not known. Caroline requested that the SCHC endorse the proposed location and provide the same in writing to the BBHC. It was then,

Moved by: Chris Loat
Seconded by: Evan Acs

“That the SCHC support the location of the Laura Secord plaque at the new lookout point on the northeast side of the Burgoyne Bridge; and,

That a letter of support be sent to the BBHC indicating the same.”

CARRIED

6.2.2. Public Outreach and Education (POE)

As a follow-up to the discussion in December about social media, Robin McPherson advised that the co-chairs and Staff met to discuss outreach (Facebook and Twitter) opportunities and constraints. Due to time requirements for maintaining these sites, they are not viable options. It was suggested that the SCHC consider a blog, to be updated once or twice a month. Britney has inquired about blogging policies with Communications Staff at the City and will continue the discussion if it is something the Committee wants to pursue. There is a module for blogging available through the City's website; however, readers can't comment on posts without moderation. Alternately, the SCHC could start an independent blog on World Press. If Staff were responsible for monitoring the blog, it could be linked to the City's website.

Heather Foss questioned whether a GIS based application could be created to provide interactive information on listed/designated properties. Britney advised that the SCHC could undertake a separate project, similar to the Abandoned Cemeteries Driving Tour, to identify listed/designated properties on a Google Map.

Evan Acs inquired about making a presentation to Council with an oral update. Britney advised that the SCHC discussed a presentation at the December meeting, but there was no consensus on whether to focus on past achievements or plans moving forward. Jim Riddell advised that all Departments will be preparing annual reports to touch on both achievements and future plans. Robin volunteered to present to Council if the focus is on plans moving forward. Evan volunteered to prepare a slideshow presentation and written report, with assistance. Jim Riddell volunteered to assist in finding a time slot appropriate for the presentation. The Committee agreed that May would be a good month to highlight some of the bicentennial events planned over the summer. Marty Mako also volunteered to assist.

6.2.3. Design and Grants Review

N/A

6.2.4. Heritage Districts

Britney Williamson provided sample entry signs for the Power Glen Heritage Conservation District. Britney will send the samples by email to the SCHC and Ken Draayer (Power Glen resident) for review and comment.

6.2.5. War of 1812 Bicentennial

Brian advised that the next 1812 meeting will be on March 11, 2013. The talk at the library on February 5, 2013 was very well attended, and Brian has been invited to talk at the museum later this summer. The 1812 Committee is working with the Friends of Laura Secord for the upcoming walk. John Haynes inquired about the genealogical certificates, and Brian advised that they are now accepting applications.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Pamela Minns has been in contact with Brian Narhi regarding recognition plaques for historical buildings that have not been designated. The Thorold LACAC is undertaking a similar project and would like to coordinate with the SCHC to develop plaquing criteria. Britney will follow up at the March meeting to advise whether plaquing non-designated properties conflicts with the existing plaquing program. Heather Foss suggested that the Committee could produce 8x10 framed photos alongside a historical summary as an alternative to plaquing. The SCHC could partner with the Downtown Association and offer the frames to downtown business owners that operate out of historical buildings as a pilot project.

8. INFORMATION / CORRESPONDENCE

Britney advised that the nomination of Corlene Taylor for the June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for Volunteerism was received by the Ministry. Once the selection process is complete, recipients and nominators will be notified by telephone.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Chris Loat

There being no further items of business, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

CARRIED

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 14, 2013. Committee members should advise Britney Williamson at 905-688-5601 (Extension 1704) or brwilliamson@stcatharines.ca if they are unable to attend the meeting or did not receive the item(s) noted in the agenda.

Minutes prepared by:
Sara Epp
Student Planner
Planning Services