

# St. Catharines Heritage Advisory Committee

## Minutes

Thursday, July 23, 2020

Electronic Participation at 2:00pm

### Members:

Gail Benjafield  
Lorraine Giroux  
Mark Hoerd  
Brian Narhi  
Peter Wing  
Andrew Humeniuk  
Robert Speck

### Regrets:

Marty Mako  
Justin Nicholls

### Staff Liaison:

Chloe Richer, Heritage Planner, Planning and Building Services  
Wilrik Banda, Planning Technician, Planning and Building Services

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

Brian Narhi called the meeting to order at 2:03pm

#### 2. Recognition of Traditional Territories

#### 3. Additions/Deletions to the agenda

None.

#### 4. Motion to approve the agenda

Moved by: Peter Wing  
Seconded: Andrew Humeniuk

“That the SCHAC ratify and adopt the agenda for this SCHAC meeting held on Thursday, July 23, 2020, copies having been previously distributed.”

**CARRIED**

**5. Motion to approve the Minutes of the previous meeting**

Moved by: Gail Benjafield  
Second: Lorraine Giroux

“That the SCHAC approve the minutes of the SCHAC meeting held on Thursday, March 12, 2020; the minutes of the Designations, Plaquing and Ceremonies Sub-Committee meeting held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020; the minutes of the Public Outreach and Education Sub-Committee meeting held on Wednesday, March 11, 2020; and the minutes of the Research & Inventory Sub-Committee meeting held on Thursday, March 12, 2020, copies having been previously distributed.”

**CARRIED**

**6. Presentations (Invited Guests)**

- Phil Cristi, Director of Community, Recreation and Culture Services, Margaret Josipovic, Project Expeditor, Economic Development and Government Relations and Brian York, Director of Economic Development and Government Relations, Regarding Item 8.1

**7. Business arising from the Minutes**

**7.1 Neil Peart Commemoration Update**

Chloe Richer, Heritage Planner and Staff Liaison

- Council approved the Terms of Reference for the new Neil Peart Commemorative Task Force on April 22, 2020; a representative of the St. Catharines Heritage Advisory Committee is to be appointed.

Chloe Richer advised of Council's approval of the Terms of Reference for the new Neil Peart Commemorative Task Force on April 22, 2020; a representative of the St. Catharines Heritage Advisory Committee is to be appointed.

A Committee member declared a conflict of interest in the matter; Ms. Richer advised their audio and video capabilities should be turned off during discussion of the agenda item.

A Committee member asked to confirm whether the Task Force will be holding electronic meetings until further notice.

Committee member Peter Wing volunteered to be on the committee. Another member asked how many representatives of the SCHAC there may be on the Task Force and Ms. Richer confirmed just one. A Committee member asked whether a back-up representative is necessary and Ms. Richer advised she does not believe so.

Moved by: Mark Hoerd  
Second: Lorraine Giroux

“That the St. Catharines Heritage Advisory Committee recommend member Peter Wing be appointed to the Neil Peart Commemorative Task Force.”

**CARRIED**

## **8. Business**

- 8.1** Mountain Locks Park  
Phil Cristi, Director of Community, Recreation and Culture Services; and  
Brian York, Director of Economic Development and Government  
Relations, Economic Development and Tourism Services  
- Consultation regarding the proposed expansion of the existing parking lot at Glendale Place Plaza into Mountain Locks Park.

Margaret Josipovic outlined the proposal to expand the existing parking lot into the Mountain Locks Park, and that this would enhance the public experience by improved trail access, and enhanced landscaping and maintenance. The process was outlined; staff are looking for input from the SCHAC as part of the consultation process.

Committee members asked questions regarding the availability of public parking (Ms. Josipovic confirmed there will be public parking); the size of the landscape buffer and walkway; removal of topsoil and whether there will be an archaeologist monitoring the excavation (the applicant advised usually they do not have an archaeologist on site but can accommodate if so required); whether there will be any issues with drainage given the proximity to the locks (the applicant advised there an issue as grade flows into catch basins and will be reviewed by staff); whether evening and weekend use would mainly become parking for the adjacent restaurant and may conflict during prime time (staff advised anticipated use would be morning and afternoons, prior to the restaurant opening for dinner); whether the restaurant owners have the responsibility to keep the grounds

clean (the applicant advised it would be part of the contract if there is an expansion); whether the “Welcome to Merritton” sign will be affected (staff advised it will not be affected); where archaeological artifacts would go if any are found (staff advised that while the City of St. Catharines does not have an Archaeological Management Plan, there are archaeological Official Plan policies and provincial regulations that would apply, e.g., an archaeologist would make recommendations on where any artifacts should go); and when the proposed expansion’s construction would begin (the applicant noted likely in Spring 2021 and the SCHAC will be advised).

A Committee member recognized that the area may be underutilized, however, the neighbourhood has sentimental value for the area and noted that it is important to protect the cultural heritage value.

Ms. Richer noted that a commemorative plaque could enhance public education regarding the cultural heritage of the park and remnant locks. The applicant confirmed there is a proposed commemorative plaque and will seek approval from the City. Mr. York outlined that the park and cultural heritage resources would be maintained and recognized, and a design of the commemorative plaque be shared with the SCHAC.

Moved by: Peter Wing  
Seconder: Robert Speck

“That the SCHAC supports the proposal to expand the existing parking lot at Glendale Place Plaza into Mountain Locks Park. The SCHAC recommend that archeological monitoring take place during construction activities (excavation) and that a commemorative plaque be designed to the satisfaction of the Committee and installed on site.”

**CARRIED**

## **8.2 Removal of Private Alexander Watson Statue Update**

Chloe Richer, Heritage Planner and Staff Liaison

- Update to be provided regarding proposal to remove the statue of Private Alexander Watson from the City Hall property, pending decision of Council from its meeting of July 13, 2020.

This item was deferred to the next Council meeting on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020; as such, staff are recommending the item be deferred to the August 2020 SCHAC meeting.

A Committee member expressed that if Council decides to remove the status, it is the SCHAC's role to step in. Ms. Richer advised that the SCHAC is one of the various Advisory Committees and stakeholders to be consulted regarding the proposal.

A Committee member spoke regarding the importance of the statue and hopes it is not a contentious issue at Council as they feel the statue has always been a landmark of significance in the downtown core.

A Committee member advised that the Historical Society of St. Catharines has requested input from its members regarding the proposed removal. Another member requested that any information from the Historical Society be shared with the SCHAC prior to the SCHAC's final recommendation.

Moved by: Andrew Humeniuk  
Seconder: Gail Benjafield

"That the St. Catharines Heritage Advisory Committee defer Agenda Item 8.2 until its August 13, 2020, meeting, following Council's decision."

**CARRIED**

### **8.3 Municipal Heritage Register Update**

Chloe Richer, Heritage Planner and Staff Liaison

- Review recommendations by the Research & Inventory Sub-Committee regarding new properties to list on the St. Catharines Register of Non-Designated Cultural Heritage Properties.

A number of properties have been recommended by the Research & Inventory Sub-Committee for various levels of heritage recognition. Ms. Richer outlined the rationale behind the Municipal Heritage Register and opened the floor for questions regarding process and/or specific properties.

A Sub-Committee member noted that they have been unable to conduct further work on additional properties past March 2020, as research resources are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and that there is not the expectation to submit additional materials at this time. Ms. Richer confirmed this is the case; though some materials can be found online, much of the relevant information will be found at the library and museum. A Committee member confirmed there is currently no access to the

Special Collections at the library, and the Land Registry Office is closing. Some city directories would be available online but it is not the same as having full, in-person access. Another Committee member advised that: digitization of directories is moving fast but does not include St Catharines records as of yet.

A Committee member asked whether the list of properties recommended by the Sub-Committee will be going before Council. Ms. Richer confirmed the list of recommendations will be attached to a staff report. A Committee member requested further clarification on Council's role in the listing and/or designation process. Ms. Richer advised that properties recommended for designation would be sent to the Designations, Plaquing and Ceremonies Sub-Committee for further research. The Committee member would be happy to pass on the extensive research on properties to that Sub-Committee.

A Committee member noted that between now and the listing of a property, demolition may be applied for and it is a challenging part of the process.

Ms. Richer requested a brief update on any outstanding research of properties from Sub-Committee members.

Moved by: Peter Wing  
Seconded: Gail Benjafield

"That the St. Catharines Heritage Advisory Committee support the recommendations of the Research & Inventory Sub-Committee regarding the addition of new properties to list on the St. Catharines Register of Non-Designated Cultural Heritage Properties, as identified in the presentation made by Chloe Richer, Heritage Planner, on July 23, 2020 including listed properties recommended for designation on the register."

**CARRIED**

## **9. Updates from Sub-Committees**

### **9.1 Designations, Plaquing and Ceremonies**

None.

### **9.2 Public Outreach and Education (POE)**

None.

### **9.3 Research and Inventory (R & I)**

See Agenda Item 8.3, Municipal Heritage Register Update.

## **10. Information/Correspondence**

- Neil Peart Commemorative Task Force [Terms of Reference](#) and [Council Report](#) (Item 7.1).
- [Parking Partnership Proposal – Mountain Locks Park](#) and Dr. Kimberly Monk Correspondence (Item 8.1).
- Council Minutes from its Meeting of July 13, 2020 – *deferred to July 27 Council meeting* (Item 8.2).
- Andrew Brown Correspondence Regarding Removal of Private Alexander Watson Statue (Item 8.2).
- Property Information & Recommendations for Municipal Heritage Register Update (Item 8.3).
- A Committee member advised that in the near future, the BME Church representatives may request to present before the SCHAC regarding upcoming repairs.
- A Committee member provided a reminder that the Land Registry Office will be closing October 9, 2020.
- A Committee member requested an update on the Welland House. Ms. Richer advised there will be a pre-hearing conference before the Conservation Review Board in September and until that time, there is no new information to share.
- A Committee member asked why seconders for motions are required. Ms. Richer advised she will confirm the appropriate process with the City's Council and Committee Coordinator.
- A Committee member was contacted by an heritage property owner who wishes to alter the exterior of his house and was advised by the member he must go to the SCHPAC. Ms. Richer asked that her contact information be provided regarding the heritage permitting process.

## **10. Date of next meeting**

Thursday, August 13, 2020

## **11. Adjournment**

Moved by: Robert Speck

"That the SCHAC meeting be adjourned at 3:14pm."