

St. Catharines Heritage Advisory Committee

Minutes

Thursday, August 12, 2021

Electronic Participation at 2:30 pm

Members:

Gail Benjafield
Robert Speck
Andrew Humeniuk
Holly Washuta
John Crawley
Lorraine Giroux
Justin Nicholls
Mark Hoerd

Regrets:

Brian Narhi

Staff Liaison:

Michael Seaman, Senior Project Manager, Planning and Building Services

Council:

Councilor Carlos Garcia

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

Vice Chair Giroux called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

2. **Recognition of Traditional Territories**

Vice Chair Giroux Vice-Chair Giroux acknowledged that the land which we call St. Catharines and the Niagara region is the ancestral territory of Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This Land is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this Land is home to many First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Peoples – who share the land with us. This Land Acknowledgement is a statement that reminds us that our standard of living is

directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people over many generations.

3. **Additions / Deletions to the Agenda**

Deputy Fire Chief Dave Upper attended on behalf of Fire Chief Jeff McCormick to speak to Item 9.4.

4. **Motion to approve the agenda**

Moved by: Robert Speck

“That the SCHAC adopt the agenda for this SCHAC meeting held on Thursday, August 12, 2021, copies having been previously distributed.”

Carried as Amended

5. **Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting**

Gail Benjafield noted that there was information omitted from previous minutes in April and June regarding the circulation of a study about the Watson Statue by Brock University professors. It was also noted that Jon Jouprien’s name was spelling incorrectly in Item 9.2 of the June minutes.

Robert Speck noted a typo in Item 9.2 of the June minutes and Item 8.1 of the April minutes.

Andrew Humeniuk noted the misspelling of the name Ripmeester in Item 10.2 of the June minutes

Moved by: Gail Benjafield

That the St. Catharines Heritage Advisory Committee approve the minutes of the St. Catharines Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held on Thursday, April 8, 2021, as amended

Carried as Amended

Moved by: Andrew Humeniuk

That the St. Catharines Heritage Advisory Committee approve the minutes of the St. Catharines Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held on Thursday, June 10, 2021, as amended

Carried as Amended

6. **Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

7. Presentations (invited guests)

See associated Item number for discussion.

- Item 9.4
 - David Upper, Deputy Fire Chief, City of St. Catharines
 - Brian Thiessen, Senior Manager of Building and Development, City of St. Catharines
- Item 8.1
 - Paul Chapman
- Item 9.1
 - Gregory and Lisa Betts
- Item 9.2
 - Laural LePage, Mayholme Foundation

8. Business arising from the minutes

8.1 NS&T Railway Plaques Update Paul Chapman, Niagara Division of the Canadian Railroad Historical Association

Michael Seaman previously sent the Committee information noting that due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related delays, that \$1500 from the 2020 budget towards Plaque Number 1 was not acted upon and is lost.

Paul Chapman noted that the costing for the plaque was \$700 greater than anticipated.

Staff is requesting a motion be passed to cover:

- \$1500 plus HST for Plaque Number 1
- A portion of the \$700 price increase
 - For a total of \$2000
- And that these funds come from the committee's budget for 2021 from the account related to interpretation.
- This would be in addition to the \$3000 already allocated for a total of \$5000, which is the amount in the 2021 budget.

Paul Chapman presented to the committee. He described the location of the proposed plaques as they related to the former NS&T station, the boat trains in Port Dalhousie and the High Level Bridge. These plaques would be part of a series in the city and elsewhere in the region.

Mr. Chapman responded to questions from the Committee and staff regarding:

- What are the fundraising efforts of the Canadian Historical Railroad Association?
- How and when the signs will be paid for and who will coordinate with the signage maker?

Moved by: Robert Speck
Seconded by: Holly Washuta

That the SCHAC contribute up to \$3000 from the 2021 heritage budget and an additional \$2000 including HST from the 2021 heritage budget in support of the St. Catharines & Toronto Railways.

CARRIED

8.2 St. Catharines Municipal Heritage Register (non-designated)
Update and the Planning Process
Michael Seaman, Senior Project Manager, Acting Staff Liaison

Michael Seaman presented to the Committee and took questions from the Committee.

- The new Heritage Register (Designated and Non-Designated) spreadsheet was circulated to the committee intended to include all properties on the register including those in HCDs and properties added recently. Feedback and omissions can be provided by email to Michael Seaman and/or James Neilson.
- Heritage Review and the Development approvals process and the role of the municipal heritage register related to adjacencies and taking HIAs.
- Legislative Requirements for adding to the municipal heritage register (non-designated) going forward.
- Strategies for achieving a comprehensive municipal heritage register.
 - A meeting with James Neilson and the Research Subcommittee will take place in the coming weeks.

Moved by: Holly Washuta
Seconded by: Andrew Homeniuk

That the SCHAC receive the information from Michael Seaman regarding the Municipal Heritage Register.

CARRIED

8.3 Pony Mini Mart – 321 St. Paul Street
Michael Seaman, Senior Project Manager, Acting Staff Liaison

Michael Seaman provided an update regarding 321 St. Paul Street and informed the SCHAC that the City has hired a CIP Coordinator who will be able to help with this property.

Michael Seaman responded to questions from the committee

Moved by: Mark Hoerd
Seconded by: Gail Benjafield

That the SCHAC receive the information from Michael Seaman regarding the Pony Mart at 321 St. Paul Street.

CARRIED

8.4 St. Catharines Museum WordPress – Heritage Committee Articles
Michael Seaman, Senior Project Manager, Acting Staff Liaison

The new Heritage Planner James Neilson will coordinate with committee members and the museum on this matter.

No motion was taken.

9. Business

9.1 Designated Property Grant Application

29 Edmund Street
Heritage Brick Replacement Repointing
Gregory and Lisa Betts, Property Owners

Gregory and Lisa Betts made a presentation to the committee regarding brick repairs which are required due to mortar deterioration which is allowing rodents to enter the residence through the gaps in the bricks. The applicants have submitted an application for a Designated Property Grant Program for \$5000 for brick restoration on the designated property at 29 Edmund Street. Gregory and Lisa Betts responded to questions from the Committee.

- Moved by: John Crawley
- Seconded by: Gail Benjafield

That the St Catharines Heritage Advisory Committee support the application for a designated property grant for \$5000 for brick restoration on the designated property at 29 Edmund Street.

Carried

9.2 Designated Property Grant Application

525 Ontario Street
Remove Cracks and Spalling Bricks and Repoint

Mayholme Foundation, Laural LePage

Laural LaPage of the Mayholme Foundation did not attend the meeting

Michael Seaman forwarded photos of the property to the committee.

Moved by: Gail Benjafeld

Seconded by: Robert Speck

That the St. Catharines Heritage Advisory Committee support the application for a designated property grant for \$2169.60 for brick restoration on the designated heritage property at 525 Ontario Street.

CARRIED

9.3 Heritage Staff Update – James Neilson, Heritage Planner

Michael Seaman, Senior Project Manager, Acting Staff Liaison

Michael Seaman provided the committee with more information about the new heritage planner. Michael will provide the committee with more of his background information via email.

Moved by: Andrew Humeniuk

Seconded by: Robert Speck

That the SCHAC receive the information from Michael Seaman regarding the new heritage planner James Neilson.

CARRIED

9.4 Fire at Designated Property

26/30 Ontario Street, Welland House

Michael Seaman, Senior Project Manager, Acting Staff Liaison
Building Department and Fire Department Staff Invited

Deputy Fire Chief Dave Upper provided an overview of operations and investigation work done by St. Catharines Fire Services related to the fire at the Welland House (26-30 Ontario Street) on July 12, 2021.

Mr. Upper responded to questions from the committee:

Brian Thiessen, Senior Manager of Building and Development provided an overview of the events of the fire from July 12, 2021. Mr. Thiessen noted that Michael Seaman has viewed the site to record at a high-level the materials that were visible including sandstone and limestone veneer blocks, limestone quoins and keystones and other heavy timber which may be

salvageable. The status of the cast iron columns is unknown as they are currently beneath debris. The owner and architect of the property will provide additional information to City staff and a time frame for completions of work so that the City can provide a demolition permit

Thiessen responded to questions from the Committee And noted that future updates will be provided by Michael Seaman, James Neilson and the developer's architect.

Moved by: Mark Hoerd

That the SCHAC received the delegation from Dave Upper, Deputy Fire Chief and Brian Thiessen, Senior Manager of Building and Development, regarding an update on the fire at the Welland House Hotel, 26-30 Ontario Street.

CARRIED

9.5 Queen Elizabeth Way Garden City Skyway Strategic Conservation Plan – Request for Comments

Michael Seaman, Senior Project Manager, Acting Staff Liaison

Michael Seaman presented information related to the Queen Elizabeth Way Garden City Skyway Strategic Conservation Plan and that there was a request for comments from WSP, who are the consultants on the project. The committee will let Michael Seaman or James Neilson know if there are any comments that should be communicated to the consultant as comments are due by August 19, 2021.

Moved by: Justin Nicholls

Seconded by: Robert Speck

That the information regarding the Queen Elizabeth Way Garden City Skyway Strategic Conservation Plan be received; and

That the proposed conservation of the Garden City Skyway Bridge and its existing historic character is supported; and

That the Consultant is requested to continue to keep the St. Catharines Heritage Advisory Committee informed with respect to any further updates for this project.

CARRIED

10. Updates from Sub-Committees

10.1 Designations, Plaquing and Ceremonies

No formal meetings took place.

10.2 Public Outreach and Education (POE)

No formal meetings took place.

10.3 Research and Inventory (R & I)

No formal meetings took place.

Meetings for all subcommittees will return when James Neilson is on board. A student may also be hired to assist.

11. Date of next meeting

Thursday, September 9, 2021

12. Additional Business

12.1 City of St. Catharines Significant and Heritage Trees Inventory Holly Washuta

Holly Washuta inquired about a City of St. Catharines Significant and Heritage Trees Inventory. Gail Benjafield provided information about previous tree-related initiatives and noted that there does not appear to be a list. Michael Seaman was not aware of a list but staff will look into whether a list exists.

Michael Seaman noted that other communities do have heritage trees but typically they would have a significant historical association. Trees could be included in future districts but there is a question of ownership and maintenance. Trees are also living things susceptible to damage from weather, disease, infestation and age.

Andrew Humeniuk noted that trees are important to the character of Port Dalhousie. Michael Seaman responded that the HCD Plan is 20 years old and would need to be updated, however the Parks Department also requires the resources to maintain and protect the trees.

13. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by: Holly Washuta

That the SCHAC meeting be adjourned at 4:07 pm.

CARRIED