

St. Catharines Heritage Advisory Committee

Minutes

Thursday, December 09, 2021

Electronic Participation at 2:30 pm

Members:

Brian Narhi
Gail Benjafield
Robert Speck
Holly Washuta
John Crawley
Lorraine Giroux
Mark Hoerd
Andrew Humeniuk

Regrets:

Justin Nicholls

Staff Liaison:

James Neilson, Heritage Planner, Planning and Building Services
Michael Seaman, Senior Project Manager, Planning and Building Services
Tami Kitay, Director, Planning and Building Services

Council:

Councilor Ward 6, Carlos Garcia

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

Chair Narhi called the meeting to order at 2:33p.m.

2. **Recognition of Traditional Territories**

Chair Narhi 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**

No Additions or Deletions

4. **Motion to approve the agenda**

Moved by: Robert Speck

“That the SCHAC adopt the agenda for this SCHAC meeting held on Thursday, December 9th, 2021, copies having been previously distributed.”

CARRIED

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

Gail Benjafield noted that she had reached out to James Neilson to note that her name was spelled incorrectly in the minutes and that the error was fixed.

Motion to approve November 11th minutes as amended.

Moved by: Gail Benjafield

“That the SCHAC adopt the minutes of the previous meeting on Thursday, November 11, 2021, as amended.”

6. **Declarations of Interest**

- No declarations

7. **Presentations (invited guests)**

- Kathleen Powell, Supervisor of Historical Services, City of St. Catharines
 - o Regarding Item 9.1

8. **Business arising from the minutes**

8.1 Lakeside Park Carousel Designation

James Neilson, Heritage Planner

James Neilson recapped a previous discussion on the Lakeside Park Carousel and has expressed interest in designating the carousel as a heritage structure, which would allow renovations to move forward. James asked the committee to share any information they may have on the history of the carousel to help create his report. He also added that a group site visit would help gather information. James would like to have the statement of significance completed by February. Lorraine noted that Lori Mambella said she would send information, which hasn't been received yet by the committee. Brian Narhi noted the previous chair had created information on the carousel. Gail Benjafield added that there are vertical files or manuscripts regarding the carousel. Brian noted the friends of the carousel group should be consulted for more information on the historical importance of the carousel. James offered to follow up with Lori to determine what information was available before members of the Committee started their research.

Moved by: Gail Benjafield

"That the SCHAC receive the update from James Neilson regarding the Lakeside Park Carousel Designation"

CARRIED

8.2 Grant Program Update
James Neilson, Heritage Planner

James Neilson outlined the grant application for 23 Yates which was discussed at the previous meeting and a question that arose at the end of the meeting about whether the owner can commence work prior to approval from the committee. James noted that according to the guidelines, they must wait for approval before commencing work, but that this wouldn't impact the application retroactively. James informed the committee that the grant program has also received a lot of interest from community members who may apply in the new year. There may come a time when there are more applications than grant money and as a result, an application cutoff date or other measures may be taken by to determine how to divide funding among applicants. Brian noted this program has not received much interest in the recent years but of course this can change in 2022.

Moved by: John Crawley

"That the SCHAC receive the update from James Neilson on the Grant Program."

CARRIED

9. **Business**

9.1 Welland Canal Task Force

Kathleen Powell, Supervisor of Historical Services, City of St. Catharines

Kathleen Powell, Supervisor of the City of St. Catharines' Historical Services department gave a quick overview of a terms of reference that was passed regarding a task force to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the opening of the Welland Canal, which will occur in 2029. The Task Force will work with several committees and community groups to determine a strategy for commemorating and conserving the Welland Canal along with updating many trails and features along the Canal route. There will also be federal funding to help these efforts. The Task Force will be comprised of members that reside within the City of St. Catharines along with experts on the history of the canal, members of local governments and members from both the Public Art and Heritage Committees. Committee members were pleased with this Task Force and Councillor Carlos Garcia noted the idea began with Merriton's council meetings to restore the trails along the Canal. Brian Narhi asked why the third canal was not included in this initiative? Kathleen noted this was the motion passed by council however the Task Force can incorporate the third canal into their work, and the plan is still very broad. Brian also asked about a possible partnership with local municipalities such as Welland and Thorold. Lorraine Giroux asked about the criteria which will be used to evaluate potential Task Force members. Brian noted it would be nice to have First Nations representation on the Task Force. Brian and Lorraine both expressed interest in joining the Task Force and Kathleen let them know that she has no issue with them dividing tasks as co-members.

Motion By: Andrew Humeniuk

"That the SCHAC receive the information from Kathleen Powell regarding the Welland Canal Task Force

And that the 3rd Welland Canal should be considered as part of the Task Force's mandate

And that the First Nations should be considered as part of the Task Force

And that the SCHAC appoints Brian Narhi and Lorraine Giroux as co-representatives of the Heritage Advisory Committee on the Task Force"

CARRIED

9.2 Update to the Heritage Register

James Neilson, Heritage Planner

James provided a brief presentation regarding the addition of properties to the Heritage Register. Gail Benjafield noted that many of these properties are now

used for commercial purposes but would love to see these properties be added to the heritage list and be presented as a part of history. Councillor Carlos Garcia also liked these additions and noted transparency between owners and the heritage committee should be emphasized to ensure these owners are not worried about potential changes to these homes or the businesses they operate, which has been an issue in the past. Carlos also asked whether properties on St. Paul St. have been identified to add to the heritage list and added that this should be an area to focus on as well. Brian Narhi noted that typically the priority system rubric was used, and though listings are done differently today, the rubric could be slightly altered to reflect new requirements. Michael Seaman also noted that adding properties to the Register is important as the Official Plan does not allow the City to require heritage impact assessments for properties that are not on the Heritage Register. James Neilson noted that properties will be brought forward on a regular basis based on the Committee's work in the field and as required based on planning applications that come forward to the City.

Motion By: Holly Washuta

"That the SCHAC receive the information about the update to the Heritage Register from James Neilson.

And that the SCHAC is supportive of the addition of the following properties to the Heritage Register:

- 1 Church St
- 3 Church St
- 4-6 Church St
- 12 Church St
- 26-30 Church St
- 27 Church St
- 29 Church St
- 31 Church St
- 35-37 Church St"

CARRIED

Additional Comments:

- Brian asked if they wanted to use the Research and Inventory Sub-committee to provide feedback on the architecture of the properties. James noted the Spreadsheet he sent out is focused on architectural features and can be filled out while on site.

9.3 Plaques

James Neilson, Heritage Planner

James provided an update about the City's plaque program stemming from some concerns about the missing plaque at the Merritton Town Hall. James informed the Committee that this plaque is owned by the Economic Development department, which currently has 30 plaques around the city. They have applied for federal grants to help replace the old plaques. If the information on some plaques needs to be updated James can advise that himself and members of the Committee would like to help with this project. James answered questions surrounding:

1. Cost of replacement of the plaques?
2. Is there an existing warranty for the plaques from the installation company?
3. Are the plaques still in place or have they been collected?

In this case more information is needed from the Economic Development team to answer some of these questions, and more info will be provided.

Motion By: Lorraine Giroux

"That the SCHAC receives the presentation from James Neilson regarding the Plaques"

CARRIED

10. Updates from Sub-Committees

10.1 Designations, Plaquing and Ceremonies

No new updates

10.2 Public Outreach and Education (POE)

10.2.1 - "Guide to SCHAC"

The Public Outreach and Education Sub-committee has previously sent out a document to the group and would like some feedback on the product before sending it out to the communications department. Brian noted he really liked the document as a summary of who the committee is and what they do. He also suggested we can send this out to residents with properties we may add to the Heritage Register. John Crawley added that we could add this to the Cultural Link newsletter. James noted the new website is also live and needs updating over the next few months and that this information could contribute to the website. Lorraine asked whether or not we can get an idea of how many people visit the website each day and James agreed it can be important and will look into it. Andrew also liked the content but noted we need a strong distribution plan to spread the message to people who aren't looking for this info. Updating the heritage register online should also be a priority as the current list found online was approved by council in 2009. Andrew also noted during last year's updates, some properties were not included as per homeowner complications, and wanted an update on this. Michael responded saying they were held back due to covid implications on those businesses as

well as other financing issues etc. He will be able to take another look in the near future. James concluded he will work with the communications team to get the information to the public.

Motion by: Robert Speck

“That the SCHAC receive the information from Gail Benjafeld regarding the Guide to the SCHAC

And the document will be sent to the communications department for further tweaking and distribution”

CARRIED

10.3 Research and Inventory (R & I)

No new updates

11. Information and Correspondence

Robert Speck wanted to inquire about Gord’s Place and whether or not it was on the heritage register or not. There is currently a lot of signage promoting the construction of a condominium tower. Brian noted the historical significance of the hotel through the world wars. It would be great to have some part of the façade kept promoting this historical importance.

12. Date of next meeting

Thursday, January 13th, 2022

13. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Gail Benjafeld

“That the SCHAC meeting be adjourned at 4:23 pm.”

CARRIED