

St. Catharines Heritage Advisory Committee

Minutes

Thursday, March 10, 2022

Electronic Participation at 2:30 pm

Members:

Brian Narhi
Gail Benjafield
Robert Speck
Holly Washuta
Lorraine Giroux
Mark Hoerd
Andrew Humeniuk
Justin Nicholls

Regrets:

John Crawley

Staff Liaison:

James Neilson, Heritage Planner, Planning and Building Services

Council:

Councilor Ward 6, Carlos Garcia

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

Chair Narhi called the meeting to order at 2:31p.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 peoples.

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

Gail Benjafield added item 9.4 for a presentation about the Lifetime Learning organization.

4. **Motion to approve the agenda**

Moved by: Gail Benjafield

“That the SCHAC adopt the agenda for this SCHAC meeting held on Thursday, March 10th, 2022, copies having been previously distributed.”

CARRIED

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

Lorraine Giroux noted that she was absent that the previous meeting.

Moved by: Lorraine Giroux

“That the SCHAC adopt the meetings of the meeting held on Thursday, February 10th, 2022, as amended.

CARRIED

6. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

7. **Presentations (invited guests)**

No presentations.

8. **Business arising from the minutes**

8.1 Heritage Advisory Committee Brochure

James Neilson gave a presentation overviewing the edits made to the Heritage Advisory Committee Brochure. Lorraine Giroux asked if this brochure will be posted on the City’s website. James responded that it will be available on the website but can also be distributed to the library or museum. Lorraine also asked about the types of social media metrics that the city is using, and the results of the metrics being generated on the City’s website, Instagram and Facebook page. James responded that the City’s Instagram and Facebook account have a combined following base of around 22,000 but does not have the social media metrics available to him but is able to request that information from the

Communications staff. Lorraine asked if this heritage content was posted on Twitter. James replied that it was not posted on Twitter due to their character limit and that it would have required a lot of revisions to the text to make it specific to Twitter. James noted that a lot of the content is automated on Twitter to be posted at a certain time and it would be more challenging to do that on that platform. Lorraine suggested that if it were on Twitter there could be images of heritage buildings being posted with a caption reminding that it was heritage week. James agreed and added that this could be done further down the road.

Gail Benjafield sought confirmation that the snippets that Lorraine was referring to have not gone onto the City's website yet. James responded that during heritage week there was a banner on the city's main website that led to the heritage committee's webpage but not that specific information. James added that because the brochure had not been finalized yet it was not posted on the website at the time but moving forward, he can ensure that it is on the website and on an associated page. Gail asked for clarification on what the brochure will look like once posted on the website. James replied that there will be a link titled Heritage Advisory Committee Brochure and a pdf of the brochure the same way it is currently displayed on the screen where individuals can scroll through both pages. Gail also commented that like Lorraine she would be interested in seeing the metrics. Andrew Humeniuk recommended that the digital version of the brochure be reconfigured so that people are able to read it in the way it is meant to be read through pages 1 to 4 rather than page 4, 1, 2, and 3. James responded that he could request the communications staff to deconstruct the brochure and split the pages as recommended. Lorraine suggested that next to the link to the brochure there could be an identification of the properties pictured in the brochure. James and Gail both agreed and supported Lorraine's suggestion. Gail asked what the timeline is for the brochure being live on the City's website. James replied that there is no timeline but can post it as soon as possible as he is an admin on the website. James added that he will circulate the document to the group and make any changes before finalizing and posting.

Motion By: Gail Benjafield

"Motion to receive the update from James Neilson."

CARRIED

8.2 Update Regarding Properties Discussed at March 2021 Meeting

James Neilson provided an update to the properties discussed at the March 2021 meeting. Robert Speck sought confirmation that one of the properties on St Paul St. was a fire station. Gail Benjafield confirmed that one of the properties was a former fire hall. Andrew Humeniuk commented that he was glad to hear the

properties on St. Paul Crescent were on the registry, but they are in poor condition and registry does not stop demolition by neglect. Andrew shared that the alley way that runs between the fire and hall and the rest of it has the names of firefighters carved in the bricks dating back to 1885 and 1893 and should be preserved. Mark Hoerdtd commented that those carved bricks are easy to preserve if they are protected from the elements. Mark also added that the building is currently being used as a top and bottom duplex as the entrances are located along the alley way.

Moved by: Andrew Humeniuk

“Motion to receive the update from James Neilson.”

CARRIED

9. **Business**

9.1 Update to Heritage Register

James Neilson gave a presentation regarding properties to add to the Heritage Register. Holly Washuta asked about the status of properties proposed for the register at previous meetings. James responded that the properties went to council at the end of last month, and that Council approved their addition to the Register. James clarified that as a part of this process he reaches out to the property owners in advance of committee meetings to address any potential concerns or objections. Robert Speck commented that he hopes that the new development for a 30-story tower next to the property on 127 -129 King Street, will take precautions to not compromise the building. James responded that those would have been dealt with prior to his involvement but noted that heritage concerns would have been brought up as part of that application at the time. Mark Hoerdtd asked what we will be doing to ensure that these buildings are preserved and well maintained and if there is a program involved for the owners. James replied that the listing of the properties on the Register only pertains to protecting from demolition and if an application for demolition was received the Committee would have 60 days to decide whether to allow the demolition to occur or to designate the building. James noted that they have no control over alterations when a building is just on the register and that the building would need to be designated for that type of control and to require a heritage permit.

Motion By: Robert Speck

“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

- 23 Centre Street

- 127 – 129 King Street
- 165 King Street
- 211 King Street
- 213 King Street
- 217 King Street
- 219 King Street”

CARRIED

9.2 Heritage Permit Committee Meeting Update

James Neilson gave an update about exchanging information between the Heritage Advisory Committee and the Heritage Permits Committee and gave an overview about the application for 46 Canal Street discussed at the February meeting.

Motion By: Holly Washuta

“Motion to receive the update from James Neilson.”

CARRIED

9.3 Date of May 2022 Meeting

James Neilson commented that he would like to move the May 2022 meeting date up a week to May 5th and wanted to put it on everyone’s radar. Robert Speck noted that he would be unable to attend the meeting on that day.

Motion By: Lorraine Giroux

“Motion to tentatively approve May 5th for the meeting date.”

CARRIED

9.4 Lifetime Learning Presentation

Gail Benjafield gave a presentation about the Lifetime Learning organization and some points that were raised in the talk that she attended. Lorraine Giroux thanked Gail for presenting and that she appreciated the information.

Moved by: Brian Narhi

“Motion to receive the report from Gail Benjafield.”

CARRIED

10. Updates from Sub-Committees

10.1 Designations, Plaquing and Ceremonies

No new updates.

10.2 Public Outreach and Education (POE)

Brian Narhi suggested that the POE may want to look into doing a library window now that Covid restrictions are being lifted.

10.3 Research and Inventory (R & I)

James Neilson mentioned that Andrew has passed along a list of properties to be added to the register that will hopefully be coming forward next month.

11. Information and Correspondence

Gail Benjafield commented that a St. Catharines Standard article noted that a specialized company has been brought on board at the old general hospital to remove the archway to a garden area in the new hospital. Gail asked Councillor Littleton and Mike Harris if they had a timeline for that happening but has not received a response. Brian Narhi added that he hoped that it includes the other architectural details near the hospital and will be used for some purpose.

Lorraine Giroux asked if it were possible to receive advance notice for when the arch is being moved. James Neilson responded that he was not aware of when that's going to happen, but it is something he can try to find out. James added that the archway and the property was never added to the register, and they do not have the heritage tools to be able to ensure the retention of certain elements of it. Lorraine asked if we could be notified once a date is set so that we can witness the moving of the archway. James replied that he would do his best and will circulate by email a response once we have one from the appropriate people. Brian suggested taking pictures of the move to historically chronicle the move of the archway.

Brian shared that he sent a link out this morning to the mayor's weekly radio broadcast that he did with Tim Dennis on CKTV the other day. Brian added that the Welland House clean up was addressed by the mayor towards the end of the broadcast.

12. Date of next meeting

Thursday April 14th, 2022

13. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by: Holly Washuta

“That the SCHAC meeting be adjourned at 3:35 pm.”

CARRIED