

St. Catharines Heritage Advisory Committee

Minutes

Thursday, June 09, 2022

Electronic Participation at 2:30 pm

Members:

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

Regrets:

Justin Nicholls
John Crawley

Staff Liaison:

James Neilson, Heritage Planner, Planning and Building Services
Margaret Josipovic, Manager, Planning and Building Services

Council:

Councilor Ward 6, Carlos Garcia

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

Chair Narhi called the meeting to order at 2:37p.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 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, June 9, 2022, as amended, copies having been previously distributed.”

CARRIED AS AMENDED

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

Moved by: Gail Benjafiled

“That the SCHAC approve the minutes of the SCHAC meeting held on Thursday, April 14, 2022, and May 5, 2022.”

CARRIED

6. **Declarations of Interest**

Andrew Humeniuk declared interest in Item 9.1.

7. **Presentations (invited guests)**

1. Regarding Item 9.1
Jessica Lindahl and Kaitlyn Carter, Brown Homestead

8. **Business arising from the minutes**

8.1. Updates Regarding previously Discussed Items

James Neilson provided an update on several items that the Committee has dealt with over the past year or two, as requested by Lorraine Giroux.

- Memorial School: An updated planning application is expected to be submitted to the City sometime this year.
- NS&P plaques: installed at the end of April. The opening ceremony has not occurred yet but will happen soon.
- The St. Paul Street West bridge replacement: One of the recommendations from the Committee was for some of the decorative elements from the bridge be retained for placement in the museum.

James said that the project is expected to start in spring 2023. James reached out to Kathleen Powell at the museum about this issue and she responded that currently they do not plan to retain any of the decorative work at the museum and that is mostly because of the size of the architectural elements, but if there is the ability to retain them, and if there's space outside for them, then that might be an option.

- **Moffatt Street Bridge & heritage signage:** James noted that the plans for the bridge and surrounding area have set aside an area for a plaque, but that the contents and design would need to be determined by the City. James suggested that this may fall under the responsibilities of the new Welland Canal Task Force since it will be asked to create a commemoration strategy for the entire canal system.
- **Merritton High School:** No formal planning application has been made yet for the property, so, there is nothing new to report.
- **Welland House:** James reached out to the heritage consultant, Dan Currie. Dan said that stone and brick materials are being removed from the site to an off-site location.
- **Garden City Arena:** The Arena was recently closed and the future of the site is unknown as Council needs to determine what will happen with the property.

Lorraine Giroux asked who would be paying the costs of any plaquing on the Moffatt Street Bridge. James Neilson answered that part of the responsibilities of the Welland Canal Task Force is the commemoration of the canal, which likely would also involve a funding strategy. Lorraine Giroux asked if there is going to be consultation about the heritage plaque that was mentioned in the Merritt Street Bridge report. James Neilson responded that the committee would decide how that consultation will occur. Robert Speck asked about the columns on the city yard on Geneva Street. James Neilson said that he had let the staff know that there is interest in the columns, but nothing has materialized at this time. Margaret Josipovic said that they have a purchase and sale agreement with a developer and will bring it up to developer. Brian Narhi said that the Heritage Committee had previously discussed turning them into benches or public art. Andrew Humeniuk asked about the Welland House brick and how much they are going to save for future re-use. James Neilson said that he does not know the exact quantity that has been saved to this date right now, but the documentation and salvage report provides a minimum amount that has been agreed to. The goal is to retain that material and use it on site as part of a future development or whatever happens on that land, after which any extra materials may be shared with the greater community.

Moved by: Holly Washuta

“That the SCHAC receive the update on previous items from James Neilson”

CARRIED

9. Business

9.1 Heritage Grant – Brown Homestead

Jessica Lindahl and Kaitlyn Carter of the Brown Homestead presented their application for a grant for the Brown Homestead’s Dairy. The brown homestead is designated under the Ontario Heritage Act and the dairy is listed as a character defining element in the designation by-law. The repairs include revealing brick down to the foundation, scraping out and replacing weak mortar and bricks, matching existing mortar and brick, repointing failing joints, leveling soil around foundation, and maintaining historical character. The Brown Homestead has contracted Patrick Van Velzen of Van Velzen Masonry Restoration to conduct repairs on the dairy. Mr. Van Velzen is a qualified Mason with his specialization in Heritage Restoration. He has also previously completed work on the house in a timely manner with competitive rates, which makes him a suitable choice for this project. The project is expected to take approximately one full work week. Based on a quote from Van Velzen Masonry Restoration, the project is expected to cost a total of \$14,125 with the Brown Homestead requesting the full amount of \$5,000 towards the project to cover part of the restoration costs.

Councillor Garcia asked if the Brown Homestead Foundation has a policy for multiple quotes? Andrew Humeniuk, who is the Executive Director of the Brown Homestead answered that they do have a policy of looking for three different quotes for projects worth over \$5,000. However, getting three heritage specialists out to the property within a year was extremely hard to do during COVID. They approached several and ended up with Patrick Van Velzen because he did work for them previously and liked the work. Councillor Garcia asked if the Foundation is brick and stone since he assumed that foundation from that period is to be old stone. Kaitlyn Carter said that the foundation is stone, but due to changes in the level of the soil since its construction, the soil has started to cover the brick above the stone. Councillor Garcia asked about the brick replacement. Kaitlyn Carter said that they have some brick available on site that matches brick at the dairy. They want to reuse as much as possible and if that would not be possible, they will look for matching reclaimed bricks or have a modern alternative. Brian Narhi asked about the replacement bricks since they are a little different from the red brick that is in the rest of the dairy building. Kaitlyn Carter said the main concern is about mortar and the colour difference of the mortar itself.

Moved by: Robert Speck

“That the SCHAC recommend approval of the grant application for The Brown Homestead’s Dairy in the amount of \$5000”

CARRIED

9.2 Hostetter-Cooke Families Burial Ground

Brian Narhi spoke about Hofstetter-Cooke Cemetery project. There is a plaque at the cemetery highlighting the history of the family, which contains a small listing of who is buried in the cemetery. Brian proposed that the Committee properly mark the graves as the gravestones have been removed. Brian has researched the plots and knows where six of the burials are located and who is buried where. The cost would be about \$800 per marker. The Port Weller Residents Association and local neighbours have expressed interest in donating their time and money into seeing this cemetery restoration become a reality. Brian Narhi asked the committee for their opinion/interest in this potential project and noted the potential to work in conjunction of the Port Weller Residents Association.

Councilor Carlos Garcia asked if Brian Narhi is suggesting that the committee approve a heritage grant? Brian said that he is looking for a way to fund this project. James said that the committee has funding for heritage recognition and there is up to \$5000 to do this type of work. Brian said that he would be looking for 4 or 6 markers. Gail asked if the residents of the Port Weller Residents Association are going to ask for the grant, because Brian is the chair of this committee. Brian said that they can have someone from the Residents Association make a formal request. He adds that Port Weller Residents Association had already proposed this project at their board meeting in February and that he is bringing this project up on the behalf of the residents. Gail asked if there is a just one large tombstone with all the names and sort of a flowchart of the family. Brian responded that somebody suggested that before but there is already a plaque that has the names listed as a sidebar. Brian said that he is concerned with marking each grave, to know precisely where it is.

Lorraine Giroux suggested that the Committee should see different quotes for the cost. Lorraine said that she agree with Gail that the Residents Association should come and tell the committee that they support this project. Lorraine asked about another plaquing project, Collier Mills, that was in the works before Covid and never came to fruition. Robert Speck said that they did a report on it, and then Covid happened and it feel by the wayside. Brian said that they have completed research and created a proposed text for the plaque, but he is not aware if the money was ever earmarked out of the budget.

Holly Washuta asked about Port Weller Cemetery funding opportunities from the other City's departments. James Neilson said that the Heritage Committee is the appropriate entity for a heritage-focused project like this. Margaret Josipovic said that other departments have their budgets for specific projects set by Council. Andrew Humeniuk said that cemetery project is a very worthwhile one that it is the kind of thing that the committee should be participating in. He noted that it would be best not to defer plaques to next year but rather contribute whatever they can afford this year in the budget in order to get the project going. Brian Narhi agreed with Andrew Humeniuk saying that they can pay for a few stones this year and few from next year's budget. James said that the funding available to the Committee is "use it or lose it". The committee has only \$5,000 available this year, but the same funding will be available next year as well.

Brian mentioned the Taylor and Bates site as another plaques project. Lorraine suggested that at the next meeting they should discuss all three projects and decide how to move forward. Andrew Humeniuk asked if there is a way for the committee to do some fundraising to increase those funds? Margaret Josipovic said that they will investigate this, as other committees have raised funds for neighborhood park improvements and received other funding sources like grants. Lorraine wondered if this committee should talk with the Plaquing Designation and Ceremonies Subcommittee about three projects: Colliers Mills, Taylor and Bates and Hofstetter Cook Cemetery. Brian Narhi agreed with this suggestion.

Moved by: Lorraine Giroux

"That the SCHAC receive the information from Brian Narhi

And that the discussion about the Hostetter-Cooke Families Burial Ground and other plaques will be deferred to a future meeting once the Plaquing Designation and Ceremonies Subcommittee has met"

CARRIED

9.3 Heritage Permit Committee Meeting Update

James Neilson provided an overview of the May Heritage Permit Committee meeting.

Councilor Carlos Garcia asked if the committee did discuss the fact that its mandate is really to focus on heritage attributes and not necessarily on the condition of the building. James Neilson responded that the house was poorly constructed, lacking a foundation and comprised of scavenged materials. The construction methods that were used were poor and were not what they would

consider anywhere close to up to code of that time. The heritage impact assessment was done by a well-known and reputable heritage consultant and the information that was included in it was very thorough, and it was quite well done and made a compelling argument for the application.

Moved by: Robert Speck

“That the SCHAC receive the information about the May SCHPAC meeting from James Neilson”

CARRIED

10. Items of Correspondence

10.1 Designations, Plaquing and Ceremonies

No updates.

10.2 Public Outreach and Education (POE)

James Neilson said that the brochures are now printed and available. They are available at the library and in the brochure stand at City Hall. And they should be in the Museum soon as well. The brochures are also available on the HAC webpage.

10.3 Research and Inventory (R & I)

No updates.

11. Date of next meeting

July 14, 2022

12. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Mark

“That the SCHAC meeting be adjourned at 3:55 pm.”

CARRIED