

2029 Historic Welland Canals Task Force

Minutes

Tuesday, July 12, 2022

Electronic Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Lorraine Giroux, Denise Horne, Brian Narhi, Francisco Ruiz Esparza, Daniel Samson, Rene Ressler, Mark Roe, Councillor Lori Littleton, Councillor Carlos Garcia, Colleen Beard, Daniel Samson

Absent:

Councillor Porter, Councillor Miller

Guests:

Staff Liaison:

Kathleen Powell, Carla Mackie

1. Call meeting to order (Chair)

Rene Ressler called the meeting to order at 6:01.

2. Recognition of Traditional Territories

Rene Ressler acknowledged that the land on which the 2029 Historic Welland Canals Task Force meets today is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Peoples. Acknowledging this is a reminder that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

3. Amendments to the Agenda

None

4. Motion to approve the agenda

Motion by Councilor Garcia to approve the agenda. Carried.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting

Motion by Denise Horne to adopt the minutes of the June 14 meeting. Carried

6. Declarations of Interest
None

7. Business

a. 6.1 – Presentation by Colleen Beard

Colleen Beard presented the Historic Welland Canals Mapping Project. Overlays First Second and Third Welland Canals on the modern landscape.

This project was a result of walking, hiking, boating all the areas of the Welland Canals.

It is a good source to geographically consult any area in the city.

There is a user guide that gives self-guided instructions on how to use the mapping project.

Many of the features also show their attributes whether they are visible and accessible for viewing.

This is a very detailed mapping of all the attributes of the Welland Canals. Other future features to incorporate into the project, it would be nice to include some historical photos into the mapping project.

Currently working on mapping the industry within the shipyard and 12 mile creek within the project.

Story maps can be created for different areas of the map. There is a story map for the Shickluna Shipyard. There is also a tech called Arc Scene that creates 3D models of areas and landscape and topography. 3D tours and 3D models are other potential projects for the future of this mapping project.

Adding information to this project has to be done by Colleen Beard.

Anything new can be sent to Colleen for inclusion. At the moment there is little narrative but it can be added in the future using Storymaps.

b. 6.2 – Task Force workplan and deliverables discussion

Follow up from last meeting: K. Powell was to research any Heritage Designations, historical status of any of the assets, connected Community Improvement Plans, or Official Plan Policies that would be relevant to the work of the Task Force:

The Canal is not on the inventory. The only protection it has right now is that in the Official Plan it notes that any development on lands within or

adjacent to the Canal is subject to an archaeological assessment (Official Plan Policy 3.4.6).

<https://www.stcatharines.ca/en/planning-and-development/resources/Official-Plan-Garden-City-Plan.pdf>

The Region has Regional Official Plan policies that call the Canal a Cultural Heritage Landscape. The Region is approving a new Official Plan this week and the Welland Canal CHL is in Section 6.5.2

<https://niagararegion.ca/official-plan/pdf/proposed-plan2/chapter-6.pdf>

The Planning Department are hoping to get the Canal and its Regional Cultural Heritage Landscape into the City's Official Plan next time it is updated.

Workplan Deliverables Discussion:

The Task Force did a preliminary brainstorm so that members could bring forward ideas that they would like to see moving forward. The Task Force will have a more formal visioning session at an upcoming meeting,

Projects that people would like to see come from this Task Force:

- Connect with any groups currently working on national designation. Councillor Littleton has some names of people who were previously involved in these efforts. K. Powell to follow with Councillor Littleton.
- Digital tours using AR / VR, QR codes that show excavating some of the buried remnants. Ways to show where the locks were located that are non-traditional.
- Public art – PAAC potential projects they could do along the routes of the historic canals to tell the stories in different ways.
- Smart phone trail and story map?

- Plaquing / signage that is consistent across all interpreted areas and that provides a variety of information that will appeal to difference audiences.
- Unearth or maintain one of the historic locks – would make a great tourist attraction. Are there new technologies to sustain that?
- Printed text – book, newspaper articles, website, brochures highlighting the historic canals. Picture book of the canals.
- Research / Commemoration of hydraulic raceway and its connection to the canals and the industry along the canal. Interpretive information that highlights all along the raceway.
- Fallen workers research for first and second canals.
- Research religious and racial tensions related to the first and second canals.
- Accessibility for people who don't have smart phones – for kids and ESL people. An example was a plexi sign with a silhouette for people to be able to see in-situ what it might have looked like. A different way of seeing the information.
- Accessibility is incredibly important and needs to always be at the forefront. Take a range of approaches to things – finding new ways to mobilize the information.
- Mobilizing students to do research for the project – elementary, high school, university students.
- An environmental history of the Welland Canals.
- Research on the workers on historic canals and working conditions.
- Highlighting the role of the coloured corps in keeping law and order in the canal.

- Bicentennial will need a logo-branding / Merritt Trail could use a logo. Bicentennial will also need a website.
- Pursuing the historical significance of the Welland Canal with Parks Canada.
- Moffett street included as an area of interest in this project.

Action: All committee members to start thinking about what success looks like for this project to bring to the visioning discussion.

c. 6.3 – Meeting dates for 2022

Discussion of meeting dates for next meetings.

Meetings to be held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

8. Date of next meeting

Tuesday, August 09, 2022

9. Motion to Adjourn

Councillor Littleton moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 pm.