

# St. Catharines Heritage Advisory Committee - Designations, Plaquing, and Ceremonies Sub- Committee

## Minutes

**Friday, July 22, 2022**

**Electronic Participation at 2:30 pm**

### **Members:**

Brian Narhi  
Robert Speck

### **Regrets:**

Lorraine Giroux

### **Staff Liaison:**

James Neilson, Heritage Planner, Planning and Building Services  
Kathleen Powell, Supervisor of Historical Services

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

Chair Narhi called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.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 DPCSC adopt the agenda for this SCHAC meeting held on Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, copies having been previously distributed.”

**CARRIED**

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

Moved by: Robert Speck

“That the DPCSC adopt the minutes of the previous meeting on Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, as amended.”

**CARRIED**

**6. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest

**7. Presentations (invited guests)**

No presentations

**8. Business arising from the minutes**

No business arising from the minutes

**9. Business**

**9.1 Welland Canal Task Force Coordination**

Kathleen Powell was invited to discuss the Welland Canal Bicentennial Task Force and to help determine how to coordinate its efforts and the efforts of this sub-committee. It was agreed that is essential to be on the same page with different groups involved in this project. Brian Narhi asked what to do with the Collier Mill plaque since it is located in the Welland Canal Task Force area. Kathleen Powell recommended that the committee wait for the Task Force to provide coordinated branding and layouts for the plaques and in the meantime, this sub-committee can prepare the text and images for future use. Kathleen added that if the plaque was going to be created now, there wouldn't be a QR code that would direct readers to the website with more available information. Brian Narhi noted that the text and images are ready for the Collier Mill plaque, though it would be nice to have the same logo and appearance of other plaques along the Merritt Trail. Brian added the plaque could go in front of the mill since some walls are still standing.

Kathleen Powell said the approximate timeline for the Welland Canal Task Force to start brainstorming the layout and design of plaques is six months from now. Kathleen Powell added that if the committee wants to put several plaques along the first and second canals, it would be better to prepare a plan (locations, research, pictures, etc.) and do them all together.

James Neilson asked Kathleen Powell how the Task Force will approach plaquing, by theme or route or a bigger picture. Kathleen Powell said that it is not clear what the approach will be yet, but the goal is to maintain consistency, and it is clear there are a lot of plaquing opportunities along the canals. James Neilson offered that it might be the role of the Heritage Advisory Committee to develop potential topics for the plaques as part of this process. Kathleen Powell said that the issue is whether the committee will work on the project alone or with the museum.

With regards to funding, James Neilson added that the heritage committee has \$5,000 annually on plaques. It is the assumption that the Task Force will also have a budget to contribute to commemoration. Brian Narhi asked if the budget could be increased for the Bicentennial project. James Neilson responded that budget-related activities would go through the Task Force as they would be in charge of the project and not the heritage committee. Kathleen Powell said it would probably be in the 2024 budget to be approved by the council.

Robert Speck said that it is better to put plaques where the ruins are still present to recognize what is left rather than plaquing every industry along the canals. Brian Narhi suggested that in the next meeting, they should discuss what is worthy of plaquing. Kathleen Powell said it is a good idea to consider it a holistic project, whether as a stand-alone executed by a heritage committee or a project that includes other stakeholders. James Neilson agreed with Kathleen Powell by adding that due to limited resources available to the heritage committee, it would be an excellent opportunity to work with Task Force from a funding perspective.

Motion by: Robert Speck

“The DPCSC receive the information from Kathleen Powell and that the committee should brainstorm sites and themes for potential plaques for the Welland Canal Task Force and move it forward for discussion at the next heritage advisory committee meeting.”

**CARRIED**

## **9.2 Collier Mill**

Brian Narhi presented the text he prepared for the plaque and suggested selecting the graphics to be used. Robert Speck pointed out one spot in the text that requires clarification on page 1, the paragraph under the image, which should say “sold half of the mill”. A discussion of which images to include followed. Brian Narhi suggested they should use the Marcus Smith map because it clearly depicts the mill’s location, the Collier Family’s Residence, and the waterways including the canal, weirs and raceways. James Neilson agreed with Brian Narhi and added that the map could show a larger area in order to show more information about the area. Brian Narhi said he would also like to keep the picture of Henry Hyde Collier, though the newspaper advertisement and 1929 map should be removed. It was agreed that the view of the canal valley from the 1850s should stay since it provides an idea of how the canal looked from Pierpoint Park. Robert Speck agreed that the picture of the canal valley from the 1850s, the image of Henry Hyde Collier and the Marcus Smith map should stay, with the others removed. James Neilson said that he agreed with Brian Narhi and Robert Speck's selection of images for the plaque. Brian Narhi asked if they should narrow down the text, and Robert Speck said they should keep the current text if it's going to fit on the plaque.

Motion By: Robert Speck

“That the DPCSC approve the text of Collier Mill plaque from Brian Narhi and defer the project till next year when the Welland Canal Task Force is ready to execute it.”

**CARRIED**

### **9.3 Hostetter-Cooke Cemetery**

James Neilson said he reached out to Dave DeRocco of the Port Weller Residents Association about their interest in the cemetery. Dave DeRocco said that he would circulate the message that they are looking for potential funds for the Hostetter Cooke Cemetery project as part of the regular newsletter. James Neilson also reached out to his colleagues in Community, Recreation and Cultural Services to see what funds were available for the cemetery. They noted that there are no funds available but they could help with looking into grant opportunities. James Neilson said that they need to see how the residents association will respond before knowing how much the heritage committee will contribute to this project. Brian Narhi asked if there would be any conflict of interest between the City, Heritage Committee and the Port Weller Residents Association if they were to start a funding event (GoFundMe). James said that the Residents Association would be able to do a GoFundMe with no conflicts because they are not a part of the municipal government. James responded that he would discuss this issue with Margaret Josipovic.

Motion By: Robert Speck

“That the DPCSC receive the update about Hostetter-Cooke Cemetery from James Neilson.”

**CARRIED**

#### **9.4 Taylor & Bate**

Brian Narhi said that the plaque for Taylor and Bate would probably end up being part of the Welland Canal Task Force project. For now, the work on this plaque is on hold.

No motion was passed.

#### **9.5 Peter Jones and Delos Beadle**

Peter Jones and Delos Beadle were brought forward by a member of the Heritage Permit Committee as names for consideration for future plaques. Brian Narhi said that the committee should not commemorate Peter Jones because he was not a resident of St. Catharines and like only visited the area. On the other hand, Delos Beadle is a significant individual in the history of St. Catharines. Delos Beadle has ties to the political scene in St. Catharines in the mid-1800s and started one of the first significant nursery operations. He was also a published author and wrote the Canadian agriculturalists book. The committee has been discussing plaquing Delos Beadle for some time, but it was always been postponed and deferred. Brian Narhi added that a good location for this plaque could be by Dr. Hawk Library or Buchanan Hall. Robert Speck said that he agrees with Brian's comments.

James Neilson asked if there are any plaques for individuals in the city and if this committee should take the initiative to devote time to individuals or a group of individuals rather than buildings. James Neilson added that maybe rather than doing “one-offs”, the committee can look at a group of individuals and think about ways to commemorate them across the city. Brian Narhi responded that the only commemoration that the committee has done is through the significant individuals list. Brian Narhi added that the committees have never created a plaque for a person and that the only individuals commemorated with a plaque are through federal or provincial plaques. Brian Narhi agreed that it may be a good idea to commemorate significant people with a plaque in the future. James Neilson said they could start with plaques associated with street names in order to provide historical background on who streets were named after. Brian Narhi asked James Neilson about the cemetery behind Ed Learn Ford, and James said that no work has been done on the cemetery behind Ed learn Ford since it was last brought up by the Heritage Committee.

Motion By: Robert Speck

“That the DPCSC augment Delos Beadle biography on the list of significant individuals and look into including him on a list of future individuals to be commemorated.”

**CARRIED**

**10. Date of next meeting**

August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**11. Motion to Adjourn**

Moved by: Robert Speck

“That the DPCSC meeting is adjourned at 11:40 am.”

**CARRIED**