



City of St. Catharines

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ST. CATHARINES HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Meeting of Thursday, May 9, 2013

Date: Thursday, May 9, 2013
Location: Committee Room #1 (Third Floor, City Hall) (James Street Entrance)
Time: 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Evan Acs
John Bacher
Heather Foss
Dennis Gannon
Marty Mako
Brian Narhi
Robin McPherson

STAFF: Kailen Goerz, Planning and Development Services
Jim Riddell, Planning and Development Services
Rick Tapp, Planning and Development Services
Britney Williamson, Planning and Development Services

COUNCIL: Mathew Siscoe, Councillor

REGRETS: Gail Benjafield
John Haynes
Calvin Jessome

PUBLIC: Laura Collings, Climate Action Niagara

ABSENT: Kristen Ernesaks
Chris Loat

1. CALL TO ORDER

Brian Narhi took the chair and called the meeting to order in Committee Room 1 at 5:04 p.m.

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1. Thursday, April 11, 2013

Moved by: Robin McPherson

Seconded by: Evan Acs

“That the SCHC ratify and adopt the minutes of the SCHC meeting held Thursday, April 11, 2013, copies having been previously distributed.”

CARRIED

Dennis Gannon arrived at 5:06 p.m.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Dennis provided an update on his follow-up regarding the 2013 Binational Doors Open Niagara. After further review, the Doors Open call for sites was not related to the mid-century exhibit at Rodman Hall, so Dennis did not forward the information about Doors Open to Harald Ensslen.

4. MATTERS REFERRED FROM COUNCIL

There were no matters referred from Council.

5. DELEGATIONS

5.1. Rick Tapp, Planner II RE: CIP Review

Rick Tapp provided a presentation to the committee regarding the current review of the Community Improvement Plan (CIP). Rick highlighted incentives of the current CIP program, which are available in six CIP areas. Rick explained that the purpose of the review is to evaluate efficiency and ensure consistency with other policy documents like the Garden City Plan. The CIP team will be reporting to Council in July with recommended changes to the current program.

The CIP team has been meeting with various interest groups to receive feedback on changes. Rick noted that there is no heritage incentive to the current program. Rick then opened the floor to the committee for feedback or input. Comments centred on current program demand, possible tie in to heritage through incentives for adaptive reuse, and suggestion that bonus “points” be awarded for designated or listed properties. Evan Acs noted that if the program was extended to residential properties it may promote purchase of old heritage homes for restoration.

It was then,

Moved by: Robin McPherson
Seconded by: Evan Acs

“That the SCHC receive the presentation regarding the CIP review for information purposes, and determine final recommendations at the June meeting.”

CARRIED

6. BUSINESS

6.1. Heritage Trees (Brian Narhi)

On May 3, 2013, Brian Narhi and John Bacher met with Jane Hanlon and Laura Collings to discuss heritage trees. Ms. Hanlon & Ms. Collings are specifically interested in tracking remnants of heirloom fruit orchards in the area with the possibility of reviving production of the old trees and donating the produce to local food banks.

6.1.1. Presentation (Laura Collings, Climate Action Niagara)

Laura Collings took the floor and made a brief presentation to the committee on behalf of Climate Action Niagara (CAN). CAN is hoping to start a project where the community would nominate culturally significant trees. Laura highlighted the details for the project, and suggested that it could tie in to possible designation of these trees. Britney Williamson provided copies of the designation options and criteria outline in Laura's, which is derived from the Ontario Heritage Tree Alliance Toolkit. Britney also suggested that Laura contact the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee, who is working on a private property Tree Protection By-Law.

After some discussion, it was then,

Moved by: John Bacher
Seconded by: Evan Acs

“That the SCHC invite members of the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee to a future meeting to discuss protection of Heritage Trees.”

CARRIED

Brian Narhi noted that the Leslieville Tree Project was the recipient of one of the June Callwood Volunteerism Award, which is modeled in such a way that other cities could implement a similar program.

Councilor Siscoe left the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

6.2. REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

6.2.1. Designations, Plaquing and Ceremonies

6.2.1.1. Criteria for Framed Histories for Non-designated Buildings (Britney Williamson)

Further to the March 14, 2013, meeting, Britney Williamson advised that the Downtown Association has published a small article in the Downtown newsletter regarding the framed histories pilot project. Two property owners have expressed an interest to date (108 & 174 St. Paul Street – Dani's Bistro and the Irresistible Bean). Brian has completed the historical research for 174 St. Paul Street. Britney recommended that the committee utilize the Rating System for Built Heritage Resources as a way to evaluate and prioritize requests moving forward. Brian is in the process of researching 108 St. Paul Street. Staff will be putting together the framed histories for these two properties in the coming months.

6.2.2. Public Outreach and Education (POE)

Robin McPherson will arrange a sub-committee meeting in the next month to discuss the blog.

Britney Williamson inquired about the status of the window display and will add the item to the June agenda to finalize the details of the display.

6.2.3. Research and Inventory

Britney Williamson advised that the subcommittee has met twice and is working to review the list of buildings constructed prior to 1876 to ensure the buildings still exist with some integrity. Brian Narhi provided a sample research sheet from the City of Toronto that Britney will be repurposing for use by the committee. The research sheets should allow other members of the SCHC to assist with research as their time permits, and for properties to be passed amongst committee members to capitalize on expertise in certain areas. Brian also offered to hold a "research 101" session at the library and land registry office to assist committee members with research skills. Britney volunteered to co-ordinate a day and time. Interested members were told to contact Britney with their availability.

6.2.4. Heritage Districts

There was no new information regarding Heritage Districts.

6.2.5. War of 1812 Bicentennial

Brian advised that the sub-committee is working on a book about the Lincoln Militia, the Laura Secord Walk and bringing the Tall Ships to Port Dalhousie.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1. Report from the Downtown Development and Revitalization Committee (DDRC)

Jim Riddell provided background on discussions from recent DDRC meetings around creation of a civic square in a portion of the parking lot of City Hall. The square is proposed within the bank of parking behind the courthouse, which is designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Discussion centred on removal of the fencing behind the courthouse, which would require a heritage permit, to create a more open space. Britney will retrieve the designations By-Law to determine whether the fence is mentioned in the reasons for designation.

7.2. Simplified Meeting Procedures

Britney provided a copy of the Simplified Meetings Procedures for Committees of Council, which was approved in principal by Council on April 29, 2013. Britney advised that the SCHC is following many of these procedures already, but committee members are encouraged to contact Britney with any questions.

7.3. Grimsby Sandstone from Passfield Building

Robin McPherson noted that the Grimsby Sandstone that was saved from the Passfield Building (266 St. Paul Street) has been moved to the Race Street parking lot. Because the stone is not in a secure location, it seems to be disappearing. The stone was intended to be reused as part of the design of the Performing Arts Centre. Britney will inquire and follow-up by email to the SCHC.

7.4. Work Plan

Jim Riddell advised that staff will be working on a heritage work plan over the coming months to set goals and timelines for projects moving forward. Britney Williamson has been keeping a projects list, and will dedicate a future meeting for further discussion with the SCHC.

8. INFORMATION/CORRESPONDENCE

8.1. Subcommittee Membership List (revised April 2013)

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 13, 2013.

Committee members should advise Britney Williamson at 905-688-5601 (Extension 1704) or brwilliamson@stcatharines.ca if they are unable to attend the meeting or did not receive the item(s) noted in the agenda.

Minutes prepared by:
Kailen Goerz
Student Planner
Planning Services