

St. Catharines Heritage Advisory Committee

Minutes

Thursday, July 14, 2022

Electronic Participation at 2:30 pm

Members:

Andrew Humeniuk
Brian Narhi
Gail Benjafield
Lorraine Giroux
Robert Speck
Mark Hoerd
John Crawley

Regrets:

Justin Nicholls
Holly Washuta

Staff Liaison:

James Neilson, Heritage Planner, Planning and Building Services
Margaret Josipovic, Manager, Planning and Building Services
Tami Kitay, Director of Planning & Building Services

Council:

Councilor Ward 6, Carlos Garcia

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

Chair Narhi called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.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**

- Welland Canal Bicentennial Task Force updates from its last two meetings.
- The NS&T Plaque unveiling.

4. **Motion to approve the agenda**

Moved by: John Crawley

“That the SCHAC adopt the agenda for this SCHAC meeting held on Thursday, July 14, 2022, copies having been previously distributed.”

CARRIED

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

Moved by: John Crawley

“That the SCHAC approve the minutes of the SCHAC meeting held on Thursday, June 9, 2022.

CARRIED

6. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest

7. **Presentations (invited guests)**

1. Regarding Item 9.1
Carla Mackie, Historical Services Coordinator

8. **Business arising from the minutes**

No business arising from the minutes

9. **Business**

9.1 Doors Open Update

Carla Mackie, Historical Services Coordinator

Carla Mackie, Historical Services Coordinator from the City of St. Catharines spoke about the upcoming "Doors Open" event on August 20th, 2022. The event will take place from 10am to 4pm. Carla provided an overview of the event and the participating buildings/organization. She noted that members of the Heritage Committee will be providing walking tours. These tours include Queen Street (hosted by John Crawley), the east portion of downtown (Brian Narhi) and Yates Street (Holly Washuta). The event will also have three virtual tours consisting of the inner lighthouse in Port Dalhousie, the courthouse clock and the Decew Generating Station. The event will be advertised on the Doors Open Ontario website and the City of St. Catharines website along with full page newspaper ads.

Brian Narhi asked if the virtual presentations will be available for viewing after the event is over. Carla replied that it will be available on the city website and on the Doors Open Ontario website for as long as they want to keep that up. Brian asked if he could have a handout for his tour printed out. Carla said that she can print the handouts, with a day or two in advance. John Crawley asked how many people are going to attend the tours. Carla said that the limit is about 20 people per walking tour and that she will let the guides know the number they should be expecting.

Motion by: Robert Speck

"That the SCHAC receive the information from Carla Mackie regarding Doors Open"

CARRIED

9.2 Garden Suites

Andrew Humeniuk

Andrew Humeniuk brought forward the new garden suites bylaw in the City of Toronto that would allow homeowners to create standalone units in their backyards. This bylaw is a partial answer to addressing housing shortages, affordable housing, and increasing density without demolition. Andrew brought this forward for discussion to get the thoughts of the fellow Committee members and to get the City's perspective on this issue.

Director Tami Kitay responded that detached accessory units, "granny suites" or laneway housing are certainly on the City's radar as a form of gentle intensification and increasing opportunities for people to live in the community. The Planning Department plans to start the research next year on this topic and there will eventually be a conversation with council and the community before they start applying regulations. Brian Narhi asked as to what kind of impact it would have on Queens Street or Yates Street where there is a lot of density and how it would impact the streetscape and fire safety. Tami Kitay responded that

the planning department will be reviewing the policies, conducting a best practice review, and will be working with and consulting all agencies, both internal and external (including the Heritage Committee), before moving forward with this. Brian Narhi said that this is an opportunity to create more affordable housing and utilize laneways. Tami Kitay said that the city will be looking at ways to allow residential units inside detached garages and carriage houses along with older structures that people are maybe just using for storage that can be repurposed in this area. She noted that the heritage aspect is important and that policy decisions will come back to this committee for further discussion. Lorraine Giroux said that she is concerned with putting a new building in front of a heritage house as it will take away from the public's ability to admire heritage buildings. Brian Narhi said that he shares the same concern, as and noted a previous application for 333 Main Street. Mark Hoerdts said that it would be more incentive for people to maintain a historic house if they have an opportunity to make an income from the accessory dwelling units. Gail Benjafield said that she is concerned about private mature trees being removed for the garden suites development. Councilor Carlos Garcia added that the staff have brought up some recommendations and suggestions regarding private trees bylaw in the past and that St. Catharines is one of the few cities that doesn't have a private tree bylaw.

Motion by: Lorraine Giroux

"That the SCHAC receive the information from Andrew Humeniuk regarding garden suites"

CARRIED

9.3 Update to the Heritage Register

James Neilson, Heritage Planner

James Neilson gave an update on properties proposed for inclusion on the Heritage Register. There are 7 properties on Welland Avenue and Ontario Street: 1 Welland Avenue, 41 Welland Avenue, 43 Welland Avenue, 51-53 Welland Avenue, 180 Ontario Street, and 190 Ontario Street.

Brian Narhi asked if the trim on the porch on 43 Welland Avenue is original to its period. James responded that he was not sure as he could not go on the property to examine the woodwork. Gail asked if any individuals from the buildings on Church Street that were brought forward at a previous meeting, will be coming to speak with the Committee. James Neilson said that none of the owners responded to the letter he sent as part of this project. All owners are invited to speak to the Committee, but James noted that he cannot compel an owner to attend.

Moved by: Gail Benjafield

“That the SCHAC receive the information about the Heritage Register from James Neilson

And that the Committee recommends the addition of the following properties to the Heritage Register:

- 1 Welland Avenue
- 41 Welland Avenue
- 43 Welland Avenue
- 51 Welland Avenue
- 53 Welland Avenue
- 180 Ontario Street
- 190 Ontario Street”

CARRIED

9.4 Ontario Heritage Conference

James Neilson, Heritage Planner

James Neilson provided an overview of the Ontario Heritage Conference in Brockville, Ontario. The conference was a mix of heritage professionals and Heritage Committee members from across the province and it was a good learning opportunity to learn. James provided an overview of the sessions that he attended and provided some background information and photographs about Fulford Place and the Town’s railway tunnel.

Brian Narhi said that St. Catharines did have its own tunnel underneath Yates Street beside the high-level bridge but the entrance has been sealed up because of the bridge construction. Lorraine Giroux asked if James could provide contact information for the teachers who presented on teaching history in Smith’s Falls. James responded that he would reach out to the conference organizer and pass it along to the group if he receives that information. Lorraine said that she has been co-planning an Indigenous roundtable on the War of 1812 with Indigenous artists in the Niagara area and that it would be good to hear more about the program in Smith’s Falls. She noted that our schools could conduct research on the people who are buried in Victoria Lawn Cemetery.

Moved by: Robert Speck

“That the SCHAC receive the information about the Ontario Heritage Conference in Brockville from James Neilson”

CARRIED

9.5 Heritage Permit Committee Meeting Update

James Neilson, Heritage Planner

James Neilson gave an update on the June Heritage Permit Committee meeting. He provided an overview of the applications for 40 Lock Street, 49 Yates Street and 93 Bayview Avenue, which were all supported by the Committee.

Councilor Carlos Garcia asked about 40 Lock Street garage work that they are doing, and how it affects the building. James Neilson said that he knows that they were once approved for work at the rear of the house, but they were just focused on the roof as part of this application. Brian Narhi said that the Heritage Permit Committee previously approved demolition of that back portion of the house because it wasn't contemporary with the rest of the house. Andrew Humeniuk added that he remembers that it was a demolition of an attached shed that was in rough condition.

Moved by: Mark Hoerd

"That the SCHAC receive the information about the June SChPAC meeting from James Neilson"

CARRIED

10. Items of Correspondence

10.1 Designations, Plaquing and Ceremonies

Brian Narhi provided an overview of the most recent subcommittee meeting. He noted that the subcommittee voted him to be chair of the subcommittee. The committee discussed the Collier Mill plaque, the Hostetter-Cooke Cemetery and the Taylor and Bates Brewery. He noted that there might be some overlap between the projects that this group is working on and the Welland Canal Bicentennial Task Force's mandate.

Motion by: Andrew Humeniuk

"That the SCHAC receive the information about the June Designations, Plaquing and Ceremonies meeting from Brian Narhi"

CARRIED

Robert Speck spoke under Item 10.3, but this discussion was intended for 10.1.

Robert provided an overview of the NS&T Plaque unveiling that was held that morning in Port Dalhousie. Over twenty people were in attendance including Canadian Railroad Historical Association members, the Port Dalhousie

councillors, the Mayor, a Member of Provincial Parliament. Councilor Carlos Garcia added that Paul Chapman spoke at the event. The Mayor also spoke and thanked the heritage committee as well.

Brian Narhi said that he heard that the Port Dalhousie Conservancy was getting ready to install the Martindale Station structure and asked if that was the case. Councilor Carlos Garcia responded that the structure was restored by Willowbank and will be placed near to the second Welland Canal and used for tickets or refreshments. Andrew Humeniuk asked if the conservancy was still going to retain ownership and operate the structure. Councilor Carlos Garcia said that it is his understanding that the Conservancy will be donating the structure to the city, but they have offered to support the City in terms of maintenance costs. Andrew Humeniuk asked if they are planning to raise funds to help the city support it. Councilor Carlos Garcia said that it is his understanding.

Motion by: Gail Benjafiled

“That the SCHAC receive the information about the NS&T Plaquing in Port Dalhousie Heritage District from Robert Speck”

CARRIED

10.2 Public Outreach and Education (POE)

No updates.

10.3 Research and Inventory (R & I)

No updates.

10.4 The Welland Canal Bicentennial Task Force update

Lorraine Giroux provided an update about the Welland Canal Bicentennial Task Force. There are representatives from a variety of groups in this committee including citizen members, several staff liaison, and city councillors. Lorraine provided an overview of the groups mandate and noted that Rene Ressler was elected as a chair. In the first meeting they discussed whether they should include the Third Welland Canal, and it was determined by the members that the focus should be on the First and Second Canals. Lorraine continued by saying that at the first meeting the members asked if there were any heritage designations and the historical status of any of the city's assets. Kathleen Powell investigated that and said that there are no heritage designations for the Welland Canal. Colleen Beard attended the second meeting. She documented the history of the canals on an interactive website that includes a map and information about associated industries, and the locations of canal locks and weirs. At the next

meeting they will have an outside facilitator who will help them decide on outcomes and goals and to create a work plan.

Brian Narhi added that at the brainstorming session it was suggested that the Task Force should look at people of colour who played a role in the Welland Canals and its construction and guarding of it. Lorraine suggested having a website or a book to provide information in a variety of formats. Brian said one of the reasons why he thinks that they should include the Third Canal because of its relationship with the Merritt Trail. Brian Narhi said that Rene was going to host a walking tour of the Canal in August, but the walk has now been postponed until September. Councilor Carlos Garcia noted that there was an effort previously to get a national designation for the Welland Canal, but it was not successful. James Neilson added that the canal is protected as a cultural heritage landscape under the Region's Official Plan, though this is not yet reflected in the City's Official Plan. Brian Narhi said that a public outreach and education subcommittee should consider creating a Library display window for the canal.

Motion by: Robert Speck

"That the SCHAC receive the information about the last two Welland Canal Bicentennial Task Force meetings from Lorraine Giroux"

CARRIED

11. Date of next meeting

August 11, 2022

12. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by: John Crawley

"That the SCHAC meeting be adjourned at 4:05 pm."

CARRIED