

Minutes of Heritage Committee Meeting of

February 28, 2013 at 5:30 p.m.

All present Committee members:

John McDonald, Chairperson
Paul Hertel
Simon Chamely
Matt Parker
Robert Honor
Carolyn Davies
Marc Pillon
Chad Barrette
Monica Bunde

Heritage Administrator: Steve Brown

Recording Secretary: Michelle Chittle

1.0 Call to order

J. McDonald called the meeting to order.

2.0 Approval of the Agenda

S. Chamely/P. Hertel that the agenda be approved as printed. Carried

3.0 Review of the Minutes

Minutes of Heritage Committee Meeting of January 17, 2013

C. Davies. C. Barrette

That the minutes be approved as printed. Carried

Minutes of Heritage Committee Meeting of February 7, 2013

M. Bunde/P. Hertel

That the minutes of February 7, 2013 be approved as printed. Carried

J. McDonald made note of the two older bridges in River Canard, one on the Second Concession and one at the end of County Rd. 8 that he would like incorporated into the properties of interest list. S Brown stated that he must do some further research as to what legislation would affect them from being demolished. P. Hertel stated that there is Heritage Designation Legislation (Act) specifically for bridges.

S. Chameley inquired how often we can add to the list. S. Brown reiterated to the committee that if any research is performed by the members and it warrants being added to the registry, they can do so at any time.

4.0 Review of Correspondence

None noted

5.0 Other Business/updates:

5.1 Update on Committee Budget

C. Davies confirmed that the complete 2013 budget will go forth at the March 5 Council Meeting for final Council approval. The Heritage Committee allocation included in the final budget put forth totaled \$15,000.

5.2 Inventory of Properties of Interest

The Properties of Interest list from the area west of Sandwich St. in the town core, compiled by Doris Gaspar, has been approved by Council. All properties with an appropriate descriptor would now benefit from a 60 day delay on any application for their demolition. The Committee asked that consideration be given to placement of the listings on the town website.

C. Davies noted that, at 1267 Front Rd (the Splitlog home) there is in fact a Lily Splitlog still alive in Michigan. C. Davies will try to contact her for more information on the home.

J. McDonald noted that more information needs to be brought forth now to address the outlying areas such as McGregor, and assets in the former Malden and Anderdon communities. He suggested that, once our budget is approved, these areas might also be researched in a similar manner. S. Brown again advised that the committee can do some sort of research or compile a list prior to Doris Gaspar being engaged again. The Committee is encouraged to bring forth any properties which they feel are of interest.

S. Brown stated that the way it was presented at Council may have opened up a lot of eyes to the number of properties that are of interest within town.

C. Davies brought about an idea that we could tweet or facebook the public that should they wish to find out more information about their homes they could contact the Committee and be directed as to where to find further available information.

5.3 Status and timeline for approval of the Heritage District

The Committee was advised that the Acting CAO, Kristina DiPaolo was performing a final review of the documentation associated with the Heritage District Initiative and, once this is complete and the supporting material deemed adequate, the proposal for a District could go forward to the Council. S. Brown stated that the town planner has been directed to review all the

documents that had been written to date and there may be a report coming to Council March 18 with her comments.

Further to the discussions of a strategy to increase public awareness of our heritage, C. Barrette made comment that more information be brought forth to the public and educating the public, prior to the study going forth to council.

C. Davies suggested that we may need other groups on board such as the Chamber of Commerce and have those groups do their homework. She inquired if there are any other groups that would be influenced positively. We would definitely need enough supportive community members.

M. Pillon suggested that the committee do a presentation at Council. Perhaps inquiring to other towns that have heritage districts, as to what the economic impact is of having a district. It may be a good angle to present to Council.

S. Chameley stated that he has a small print out of the idea as to the heritage district that is proposed. He did contact the GIS dept. It appears that we could create an illustration of the proposed district with pictures of each property and a link to the information compiled by Doris Gaspar. Any other historic photos could be linked to the property as well. All information could be scanned and put into a pdf format.

The committee brought forth some ideas as to ways to bring forth support for the heritage district by the public and council.

5.4 Action on Request for Repeal of Designating By-law 1105 Front Road S

The committee discussed the repeal rationale and the basis for his request.

S. Brown stated that 90 days is approaching (commenced 17th of December). Neither the historical information, nor architectural attributes have changed for the property. The owners came to the committee requesting designation at the time. He noted that the designation of a property has costs for the town associated with it, including legal, advertising, and staff time. It will also cost the town money to de-designate. He further stated that Council must get Committee comments under the Heritage Act.

The Committee again reviewed correspondence from the Ministry of Heritage Culture and Sport and the Ontario Heritage Foundation, which commented in detail on the relevant criteria for de-designation. While Mr. Levac's request did not include a specific rationale, both experts indicated that the criteria and the historic record did not support alternatives to a heritage rebate program as a basis for de-designation.

R. Honor, stated that the Architectural ACO will be preparing a written letter. He had hoped that it would have come forth by now.

M. Pillon/R. Honor

As, there have been no changes to the cultural value or architectural attributes assigned to the house in its original designation, the reasons for designation still apply, therefore, the committee has no justification to repeal the by-law. Carried unanimously

5.5 Social Media

The Committee suggested that we check with Anne Rota to see if finished product could be placed on the electronic kiosk. Could be brought forth to the Cultural Committee? This will be an ongoing agenda item. The extension into Facebook and other social media would continue to be under consideration as well.

5.6 Revisions to Bellevue Designation By-law

It was noted that Mr. Stephan Marshall, a noted heritage architect involved in the Duff-Baby House, Mackenzie Hall at the Low-Martin toured the building. R. Honor stated that some of the descriptors in the bylaw are inadequate and should be replaced with enhanced versions. Draft revisions will be attempted for the next meeting.

5.7 Communication and Education Subcommittee Report

P. Hertel gave brief overview of what took place at the subcommittee meeting. At this time the committee is trying to focus on the immediate "doable" items from the extensive list prepared by Mr. Hertel and considered by the Committee, as outlined in the record of their meeting.

1812 links to the war of 1812-14 era. P. Hertel suggested a plan to solicit the support of the local media to publish prepared "then and now" heritage photographs and brief stories from the new list.

He also noted that the River Town Times was agreeable to publishing occasional pieces of no more than 250 words on selected heritage properties and issues and the Marsh Collection was willing to make their records available in support of this effort.

P. Hertel/M.Pillon

That the minutes of the subcommittee meeting (attached) be approved. Carried

6.0 New Business

6.1 Further additions to the properties of interest list

It was suggested that the Sarah Elliott house should be brought forward and placed on the list. M Pillon will bring forth a few addresses of other properties so that further information can be compiled on them.

7.0 Next meeting date

March 21, 2013 at 5:30 p.m.

8.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm



JOHN MCDONALD, CHAIRPERSON



MICHELLE CHITTLE,
RECORDING SECRETARY