

# Township of Woolwich

## Special Heritage Committee Minutes

July 26, 2022  
Virtual – Zoom Meeting  
From 5:00 p.m. to 6:21 p.m.

Meeting Chair: Councillor Patrick Merlihan (Chair)  
Attended: Bonnie Bryant (Co-Chair)  
Colleen Willard-Holt  
Hans Pottkamper

Staff Present: David Gundrum, Planner  
Robyn Koutrouliotis, Licensing Officer/Administrative Assistant

Presenters: Bridget Coady, Cultural Heritage Principal Planner, Region of Waterloo\*  
Doug Dixon, President, Senior Bridge Engineer, Doug Dixon & Associates\*  
Kevin Li, Junior Bridge Designer, Doug Dixon & Associates\*  
Michelle Pinto, Project Manager, Region of Waterloo\*  
Richard Unterman, Principal, Unterman McPhail Associates\*

Regrets: Kim Hodgson  
Marg Drexler  
Pat Stortz

### **CALL TO ORDER at 5:00 P.M.**

### **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Chair Patrick Merlihan read a land acknowledgement.

### **DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

*\* Bridget Coady, Region of Waterloo; Doug Dixon, Doug Dixon & Associates; Kevin Li, Doug Dixon & Associates; and Michelle Pinto, Region of Waterloo entered the meeting.*

#### West Montrose Covered Bridge Rehabilitation Project (Region of Waterloo, Doug Dixon & Associates, Unterman McPhail Associates)

Michelle Pinto, Project Manager, Region of Waterloo provided a land acknowledgement.

M. Pinto provided an overview of the proposed rehabilitation alternatives for the West Montrose Covered Bridge and noted ongoing studies, including a natural environment review, an archeological investigation, and a cultural heritage review. M. Pinto outlined the projected timeline for the rehabilitation, including consultation with the Committee, timber analysis, Regional Council approval, presentation to Township Council, and updates to the designation by-law.

#### *Public Consultation*

Doug Dixon, President and Senior Bridge Designer, Doug Dixon & Associates, provided a summary of the Virtual Public Information Centre data, including requests for the replacement of

the Bailey truss with steel girders, maintaining a timbered deck, installation of a fire suppression system, the addition of roadside features to restrict oversized vehicles, removal of visible sag in the roofline and deck, installation of security cameras, and installation of fire optic ducts. M. Pinto expanded on concerns relating to load capacity, reinforcement requirements, height impacts, analysis of the existing structure, Request for Proposal (RFP), roadway elevation, camber, and conservation planning.

#### *Proposed Alternatives*

D. Dixon outlined considerations relating to long-term upkeep of the structure; risk mitigation involving oversized vehicles, vandalism, fire, flood, ice, snow, and other environmental factors; minimizing future maintenance requirements; and heritage considerations. D. Dixon noted the Region is investigating the addition of a fire suppression system as the local water main does not possess sufficient flow capacity. A more in-depth review of alternative water sources and budget considerations will be undertaken separately at a later date.

Kevin Li, Junior Bridge Designer, Doug Dixon & Associates, provided an overview of the preferred rehabilitation methods and the evaluation of structural performance, constructability, cultural heritage, aesthetics, sustainability, and life-cycle cost. K. Li identified Alternative B as the preferred option.

#### *Heritage Impact Assessment*

Richard Unterman, Principal, Unterman McPhail Associates, provided an overview of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), identified Alternative A as the preferred option, and noted both alternatives will allow for the Bridge to be maintained for up to 75 years. M. Pinto noted the project goal is conservation through rehabilitation and repair rather than a historical restoration.

At the Committee's request, R. Unterman identified the differences between Alternatives A and B, expanded on the identification of Alternative A as the preferred method in the HIA, and outlined potential benefits of reinstalling the splash panels; D. Dixon summarized considerations relating to reinstalling the panels including vandalism, animal habitation, and structural deterioration.

Bridget Coady, Cultural Heritage Principal Planner, Region of Waterloo, confirmed that any designated heritage attributes removed during the rehabilitation will either be commemorated on-site or through a museum installation.

#### *Committee Feedback*

The Committee discussed concerns relating to the long-term structural integrity of steel substructures, temporary speed reduction on detour routes to accommodate horse and buggy traffic, and the inclusion of heritage signage on both sides of the Bridge.

M. Pinto noted the Committee's comments and feedback are required as part of the public consultation process. The preferred alternative is anticipated to go before to Regional Council in December.

The Committee thanked the delegates for their presentation.

*\* Bridget Coady, Doug Dixon, Kevin Li, Michelle Pinto, and Richard Unterman left the meeting.*

**Action:** The Committee requested David Gundrum, Planner, circulate the HIA to the Committee.

**Action:** The Committee requested D. Gundrum include the provision of formal feedback on the September Committee meeting agenda.

**Action:** The Committee will provide formal feedback to the project team following the September Committee meeting.

**Action:** The Committee requested D. Gundrum liaise with M. Pinto regarding new information on the project in advance of the September meeting.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### Heritage Registry

The Committee discussed active heritage designations and agreed to prioritize St. Boniface Church. D. Gundrum noted timing considerations relating to the limited number of Council Meetings remaining before the Municipal Election.

**Action:** The Committee requested Chair Merlihan liaise with Roger Miller, Historian, for additional information in support of the Maryhill designations.

**Action:** The Committee requested D. Gundrum liaise with Planning Services staff to determine a Council Meeting date for the designation report.

### Economic Development and Tourism

The Committee will revisit this item at a future meeting.

### St. Boniface School Plaque

There were no updates.

**Action:** The Committee requested D. Gundrum provide Chair Merlihan and H. Pottkamper with the vendor's contact information.

**Action:** The Committee requested H. Pottkamper contact the vendor to coordinate installation.

### 58 Glasgow Street North (Ebel House) Demolition

D. Gundrum noted a building permit application has not been submitted.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Co-Chair Bonnie Bryant

Seconded by Colleen Willard-Holt

That the meeting be adjourned to meet again on September 14, 2022.

...Carried.