



**Township of Woolwich
Heritage Committee
Agenda**

March 13, 2024

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers

24 Church Street West, Elmira ON, N3B 2Z6

Chair: Councillor Bonnie Bryant

Access Details

Meeting Link

Meeting ID: 894 4250 8289

Passcode: 068142

Toll-Free: 855-703-8985

Pages

1. Land Acknowledgement

The land on which we meet has been here from time immemorial. People have inhabited southern Ontario for about 10,000 years and we acknowledge the Neutral people also called Attawandaron, Anishinaabe, and Haudenosaunee Peoples who lived here when settlers arrived and who share this land with us. May we together learn to care for and respect each other, our flora and fauna, and the land we inhabit together.

2. Call to Order

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

4. Adoption of Minutes

1

5. Revisit Action Items from Last Meeting

8

6. Prioritizing Work Plan

11

7. Creating Sub Work Groups with Subject Matter Experts

8. Brochure & List of Community Designations & Descriptions

9. Reclaimed Materials

9.1 Old Winterbourne School House Timbers

9.2 Pieces of the West Montrose Bridge

10. New Business

11. Items for the Next Agenda

12. Adjournment

Township of Woolwich Heritage Committee Minutes

February 21, 2024
5:00 p.m. – 6:18 p.m.
Video Conference
Hosted in Virtually
24 Church Street West, Elmira

Meeting Chair: Councillor Bonnie Bryant, Chair

Attended: *Colleen Willard-Holt, Co-Chair*
Katy Boose
Natalia Smiarowski
Terry Bowman
Marg Drexler
Sherwin Meloney, Planner

Staff Present: Stacey Bruce, Committee Support Specialist

Regrets: Dianna Weltz
Karen Cummings
Kim Hodgson

Italics indicates a Remote participant.

Land Acknowledgement

Councillor Bonnie Bryant read a land acknowledgement.

Call to Order at 5:00 P.M.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None.

Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Marg Drexler
Seconded by Terry Bowman

Adoption of the Minutes for January 10, 2024.

...Carried.

Revisit Action Items from Last Meeting

Chair Councillor Bonnie Bryant and the committee revisited and updated the actions items from the January 10, 2024, meeting.

See Appendix "A" for the Heritage Committee – Updated Actions Items – January 10, 2024, Actions items.

List of Qualities That Make Buildings Historical and Culturally Significant

The committee discussed having reviewed the *Ontario Heritage Act* and the need for a list of characteristics to evaluate historical and culturally significant buildings to provide a helpful context for this.

It was recalled that the committee previously had a reference book for this 4-5 years ago purchased from Amazon.ca for \$5 containing architectural details like window styles but was unsure of its current location. The committee was not sure if former Chair Mark Pomponi now has this book or if it is being kept in the planning department. It was also recalled that they have a Cultural Heritage Resource Evaluation form.

ACTION: Chair Councillor Bonnie Bryant to relocate reference information regarding the qualities that make buildings historical and culturally significant.

ACTION: Katy Boose to borrow and scan the Cultural Heritage Resource Evaluation Form and send it to the committee.

Various suggestions and considerations around the evaluation and designation of Heritage Buildings in Elmira were discussed. Ideas included having an architect accompany the committee during evaluations to provide insights and notes. The significance of historical events and notable residents associated with buildings was emphasized. Concerns were raised about the impact of designated buildings as Heritage Sites on their future exterior and interior modifications and renovations around preserving key architectural features.

Specific properties like the Great West Felt Co. and 2 Williams St. in Elmira were discussed around the committee's role in overseeing designations and changes to designated properties.

The process of property owners obtaining permits for modifications was discussed along with the importance of adhering to heritage guidelines while allowing for necessary renovations like accessibility features.

There was no further discussion regarding this.

Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act – Related Updates

What's Happening With all the Non-Designated Heritage Properties in Ontario?

Chair Councillor Bonnie Bryant discussed a proposed motion regarding Bill 23 from the ACO urging municipalities to extend the deadline for designating heritage properties from the end of 2025 to the end of 2030. It was explained that a survey was sent by the ACO to gauge municipal community interest in the extension. The importance of the committee's request due to the challenging deadline was also discussed. The rationale behind the deadline was questioned, highlighting challenges faced by smaller communities in reaching it. The discussion also touched on Woolwich Township having 26 non-designated properties and this was compared to risks faced by larger cities like Toronto regarding the potential delisting of heritage buildings added to heritage listing registries before 2022 at the end of 2025 if they have not been designated by then. The committee all agreed that more time and government support is needed to address heritage designation concerns effectively.

Motion

Moved by Terry Bowman
Seconded by N. Smiarowski

That this committee shall request Council to authorize the Mayor to promptly send a letter to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, with copies to Michael Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism; Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance; and John Ecker, Chair, Ontario Heritage Trust, requesting that Subsection 27(16) of the Ontario Heritage Act be amended to extend the deadline for five years from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2030.

See Appendix “B” for the “Municipal Heritage Committee Motion”, regarding proposed amendment to Subsection 27(16) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* with respect to the removal of listed (non-designated) properties from municipal heritage registers.

ACTION: Chair Councillor Bonnie Bryant will ask council to send the letter regarding the proposed amendment to subsection 27(16) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* with respect to the removal of listed (non-designated) properties from municipal heritage registers.

ACTION: Chair Councillor Bonnie Bryant will email the motion package regarding the proposed amendment to subsection 27(16) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* with respect to the removal of listed (non-designated) properties from municipal heritage registers to Stacey Bruce.

Urgent Action Needed – Municipal Heritage Registry

The committee was reminded of the January 1st, 2025, deadline for designating heritage properties according to Bill 23 by S. Meloney. It was explained that any property not designated by this date will be removed from the list and cannot be redesignated for another 5 years. S. Meloney also highlighted the new process’s 2-year timeline for designation to occur once a property is listed. Discussion touched on the process of reinstating properties, the importance of listing properties for preservation and the challenges posed by this tight deadline. The committee debated whether to prioritize properties currently on the municipal registry and discussed specific properties of interest such as the related St. Boniface Cemetery, Church & Manse properties in Maryhill. Consideration was given to resources required for multiple designations, that property owners are suggested but not required to be notified of the heritage listing of their property and the need to work through one property at a time. The committee discussed sending letters to the owners of the currently listed properties in consideration of designation to gauge their interest in the process for screening and prioritizing properties on the list for efficiency. The historical significance of various properties was mentioned, with a discussion about and the research required for their designation. Maryhill Historical Society records were mentioned as a research resource. It was also suggested to reach out to past committee member Marg Rommer as a resource for writing research proposals. The committee agreed to focus on one property at a time based on research requirements and the available \$2000 funding from their \$4000 budget. The committee also wanted to clarify the status of some properties currently under consideration.

ACTION: N. Smiarowski to draft a letter to the owners of current listed properties being considered by the township for heritage designation to gauge their interest.

ACTION: S. Meloney to confirm the “for further investigation” consideration of the St. Boniface Cemetery, Church & Manse properties in Maryhill and their proposed designation listing status

ACTION: Chair Councillor Bonnie Bryan to reach out to past committee member Marg Rommer as a research proposal resource.

There was no further discussion regarding this.

Prioritizing Work Plan

Chair Councillor Bonnie Bryant noted several absent committee members, and this discussion was then deferred to the March 13, 2024, meeting.

Creating Sub Work Groups with Subject Matter Experts

Chair Councillor Bonnie Bryant deferred the creation of sub work groups in accordance with the prioritization of the workplan to the March 13, 2024, meeting.

Sale of Old St. Boniface School Property

The fate of the designated sections of the Old St. Boniface School Property was discussed. M. Drexler highlighted that the school board has initiated the tendering process for the property and the likelihood of potential interest in it. However, concerns were raised regarding the tight turnaround for financial arrangements to be made for bids on this property to be expressed given the 3-week timeline provided. Concerns were also raised about the deteriorating condition of the designated part of this property, specifically around shingles coming off. It was discussed that if a portion is designated, it cannot be altered without a heritage impact assessment according to its description of cultural heritage attributes. Questions arose about the responsibility of the property owner to maintain the designated section and whether there were mechanisms in place to enforce designation protocols. The committee considered the need for additional resources to manage designations effectively. Discussion touched on the role of bylaw and potential enforcement measures, including inspections and public petitions. Overall, concerns were expressed about the lack of oversight and maintenance of designated properties.

There was no further discussion regarding this matter.

Brochure & List of Community Designations & Descriptions

A short discussion around the committee's project work in producing a brochure from the list of community heritage designations and descriptions occurred. The committee raised concerns about interesting sites not being on the designated heritage list as well as producing a brochure for owners on how to get their property designated and reconsidered a virtual tour related to this agenda item. There was consensus around the suggestion to create a simple map or brochure with points of interest to educate tourists about 6 local heritage properties in Elmira and 2 from each village. The significance of public awareness resulting from an initiative like this was emphasized as previously public petitions have been submitted to council in support of heritage designations, especially when property owners expressed opposition to this. The committee agreed on the importance of an education project like this and discussed distributing brochures through local stores or BIAs. Involving the Township's Economic Development staff member in reviewing and confirming the brochure's content was also discussed. \$1000 from the committee's \$4000 budget was confirmed to be allocated for education and awareness initiatives like this.

Noting several absent committee members Chair Councillor Bonnie Bryant deferred this item to the March 13, 2024, meeting for further clarification.

ACTION: K. Boose and N. Smiarowski to create a prototype brochure for review at the next meeting, with input from the Maryhill Historical Society.

There was no further discussion regarding this matter.

Reclaimed Materials

Old Winterbourne School House Timbers

Chair Councillor Bonnie Bryant deferred this the March 13, 2024, meeting due to committee member absence.

West Montrose Bridge

The committee reconsidered preparing a letting to obtain pieces of the West Montrose Bridge for sale to generate revenue and increase their budget, pending the Region's approval.

ACTION: The committee to determine who will prepare a letter to the Region regarding obtaining pieces of the Old West Montrose Bridge for a fundraising initiative.

Other Business

S. Meloney provided an update on the West Montrose Covered Bridge Restoration Project indicating that the Region's current proposed changes to the bridge are considered major or substantial changes. He further described that because of these changes require an approval process involving an amendment to bylaw. To accomplish this the committee needs to review the proposed changes to be presented to council for approval. However, S. Meloney mentioned that Michelle Pinto, Engineer, Transportation Rehabilitation (Design & Construction) with the Region of Waterloo advised that they are still in the process of completing the bridge's heritage impact assessment, which means he cannot proceed with presenting this matter to the committee until this assessment is complete.

There was no further discussion of this matter.

Items for the Next Agenda

None

Adjournment (6:18 P.M.)

Moved by K. Boose.

Seconded by T. Bowman

That the meeting be adjourned to meet again on March 13, 2024.

...Carried.

Recorder: Stacey Bruce, Committee Support Specialist

Appendix A: Heritage Committee – Updated Actions Items – January 10, 2024, Actions items.

Heritage Committee – Updated Action Items – January 10, 2024

LEAD	ACTION	STATUS	TIMING	NOTES
Kim Hodgson	To send the 2024 workplan to Stacey Bruce	Completed	Feb 21, 2024	
Stacey Bruce	To distribute the 2024 workplan to the new members	Completed	Feb 21, 2024	
Terry Bowman	To inform S. Bruce of website errors	Completed	Feb 21, 2024	
S. Bruce	To update and correct website information	Completed	Feb 21, 2024	Rae Ann Bauman, COR, looked after this
K. Hodgson	To reach out to EDSS teachers to determine whether utilizing students in partnerships is an option	Ongoing	Mar 13, 2024	Has connected with Ms. Cressman, EDSS Art Department Head about a collaboration with students on a digital visual arts project
Katy Boose	To reach out to printeries in Woolwich for brochure quotes	Ongoing	Feb 21, 2024	Has collected a couple of quotes but is waiting on the response for another from Simpson Printing in Bloomingdale
Sherwin Meloney	To determine if the Township photos/images can be used and send them as a file in an email to the committee liaising with Natalia Smiarowski or the committee Chairs as necessary	Completed	Feb 21, 2024	N. Smiarowski received bridge photos
All Committee Members	To compile a list <u>an</u> description of properties in their own community of areas of interest to be included in a brochure and bring to the next meeting	Ongoing	March 13, 2024	Deferred to be clarified in next meeting
Chair Councillor Bonnie Bryant	To reach out to retired geography teacher Warren Stout as a resource	Ongoing	March 13, 2024	
N. Smiarowski	To provide local museum contact details to K. Hodgson	Completed	Feb 21, 2024	Stacy McLennan, Regional Museum
K. Hodgson	To contact a local museum about taking Winterbourne schoolhouse timbers	Ongoing	Mar 13, 2024	
Marg Drexler	To bring thank you card to sign for Hans Pottkamper	Ongoing	Feb 21, 2024	Chair Councillor Bryant will bring the card to the next meeting as some members were absent this month



Appendix B: Municipal Heritage Committee Motion regarding proposed amendment to Subsection 27(16) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* with respect to the removal of listed (non-designated) properties from municipal heritage registers.

MUNICIPAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE MOTION

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendment to Subsection 27(16) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* with respect to the removal of listed (non-designated) properties from municipal heritage registers

WHEREAS:

(1) Subsection 27(16) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* stipulates that any non-designated heritage property listed on the municipal register of properties as of December 31, 2022 shall be removed from the municipal register on or before January 1, 2025, if the council of the municipal does not give a notice of intention to designate the property under subsection 29(1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* on or before January 1, 2025;

(2) Since January 1, 2023, municipal staff and members of this Committee have been diligently working to: review the municipal heritage register; research the heritage value and interest of listed (non-designated) properties; review and research the heritage value and interest of non-designated properties; contact owners of such properties; determine which properties should potentially be designated in accordance with the provisions of Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*; and take all required steps to designate such properties; and

(3) The above-noted work involving **26** listed properties in this municipality is extremely time-consuming and cannot be completed by December 31, 2024 with the limited municipal resources available.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

This Committee shall request Council to authorize the Mayor to promptly send a letter to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, with copies to Michael Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism; Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance; and John Ecker, Chair, Ontario Heritage Trust, requesting that Subsection 27(16) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* be amended to extend the above-noted deadline for five years from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2030.

Heritage Committee – Action Items – Feb 21, 2024

LEAD	ACTION	STATUS	TIMING	NOTES
Kim Hodgson	To reach out to EDSS teachers to determine whether utilizing students in partnerships is an option	Ongoing	Mar 13, 2024	Has connected with Ms. Cressman, EDSS Art Department Head about a collaboration with students on a digital visual arts project
Katy Boose	To reach out to printereries in Woolwich for brochure quotes	Ongoing	Feb 21, 2024	Has collected a couple of quotes but is waiting on the response for another from Simpson Printing in Bloomingdale
All Committee Members	To compile a list and description of properties in their own community of areas of interest to be included in a brochure and bring to the next meeting	Ongoing	Mar 13, 2024	To be clarified
Chair Councillor Bonnie Bryant	To reach out to retired geography teacher Warren Stout as a resource	Ongoing	Mar 13, 2024	
K. Hodgson	To contact a local museum about taking Winterbourne schoolhouse timbers	Ongoing	Mar 13, 2024	
Chair Councillor Bryant	To bring thank you card to sign for Hans Pottkamper	Ongoing	Feb 21, 2024	Will bring the card to the meeting as some members were absent in January
Chair Councillor Bryant	To relocate reference information regarding the qualities that make buildings historically and culturally significant.	New	Mar 13, 2024	
K. Boose	To borrow and scan the Cultural Heritage Resource Evaluation Form and send it to the committee	New	Mar 13, 2024	
Chair Councillor Bryant	To ask council to send the letter regarding the proposed amendment to subsection 27(16) of the Ontario Heritage Act with respect to the removal of listed (non-designated) properties from municipal heritage registers.	New	Mar 13, 2024	
Chair Councillor Bryant	To email the motion package regarding the proposed amendment to subsection 27(16) of the Ontario Heritage Act with respect to the removal of listed	New	Mar 13, 2024	

	(non-designated) properties from municipal heritage registers to Stacey Bruce.			
Natalia Smiarowski	To draft a letter to the owners of current properties being considered by the township for heritage designation to gauge their interest.	New	Mar 13, 2024	
Sherwin Meloney	To confirm the “for further investigation” consideration of the St. Boniface Cemetery, Church & Manse properties in Maryhill and their proposed designation listing status.	New	Mar 13, 2024	
Chair Councillor Bryant	to reach out to past committee member Marg Rommer as a research proposal resource.	New	Mar 13, 2024	
K. Boose and N. Smiarowski	To create a prototype brochure for review at the next meeting, with input from the Maryhill Historical Society	New	Mar 13, 2024	
All Committee Members	To determine who will prepare a letter to the region regarding obtaining pieces of the Old West Montrose Bridge for a fundraising initiative.	New	Mar 13, 2024	

To Woolwich Township Council
the Woolwich Historical Committee are requesting

for your consideration
a Historical Designation of
St. Boniface Cemetery, Maryhill

Legal Description of the Property _____

Description of the Property "The St. Boniface Cemetery" is located at 1367 Maryhill Road, Maryhill.

Also known as the "Old Walled Cemetery"

The existing cemetery of approximately 2 acres is surrounded by a stone walled fence which was erected between 1862 and 1863. Sand, fieldstones, and labor were given freely, yet the work according to records cost 1002.92. The main gate was made by J. D. Miller, a blacksmith from Bridgeport at a cost of 106.00.

The first burial, from the church records, was in 1848.

In the cemetery there are many iron crosses and stone slabs. These vividly depict the German-Alsatian origins of the settlers of Maryhill. The dates on these markers range from 1860 to 1903 and again according to church records precede the period when the majority of Alsatian-Germans came to this area.

The older cross markers were made from iron bars and the leaf and flower designs were hammered by hand. The stone slabs have Berlin imprinted as the place of origin and bear a motif consisting of a central cross flanked by two angels.

Many of the iron crosses in the cemetery were made by Joseph Frank whos' own grave can be found in the cemetery with a cross that he himself made. Some of the crosses are joined into one as images of the married pairs they commemorate.

In the center of the cemetery are the graves of 6 former priests of the parish, with many of their markers carved in stone.

Between 2021 and 2022 a member of the Maryhill Historical Society (Ron Schmuck) took on the task of fixing and refurbishing all the broken and deteriorating grave markers. He traveled to Germany to study and research original coloring and learned how to hammer and mend some of the broken iron crosses. This procedure took him over 200 hours but all the old markers are now in perfect condition for years to come.

Here is a link to his restoration video here <https://st-boniface-owc.weebly.com/>

A study by Peter Russell a retired curator of the Earth Science Museum of Waterloo University showed that the stones of the wall surrounding the cemetery include boulders of Paleozoic age as well as of Precambrian age, these are fine examples of quartzite. This rock began as a sand deposit. Over time, the sandy deposit was turned into sandstone. Then through heat and pressure, the sandstone was metamorphosed to form quartzite , one of the toughest kinds of rock. Interestingly several of these rocks have stromatolites (a type of algea structure fossil) in them.

Plaques for names were made of marble. In total there are 693 tombstones, 119 in German script, 90 crosses and 74 unmarked graves.

A fellow named Pat Johnson is the only African-Canadian buried in the cemetery. He was a noted fortune teller who helped find persons and objects that were missing. He was somewhat of a mystery, who worked for neighbors, rarely socialized and was afraid of cameras and refused to have his picture taken. The MHS has only one picture of him walking in a neighboring lane. He played the harmonica but not on Sundays. Pat was often seen wearing a rosary and after he died he received a Catholic burial because of that.

A local man named Andrew Weiler fought in the American Civil War at Gettysburg, The Wilderness, Spottsylvania and at the Battle of Richmond, Virginia. He was an artificer (an enlisted man responsible for the upkeep of guns). He returned to New Germany and died October 11, 1916, and is buried in this cemetery.

Acknowledgements:

Glacial Features of Maryhill by Peter Russell

Primary Source: Hand written ledger "Information relating to New Germany Parish, Maryhill 1826-1924

St. Boniface 1877-1977 "Centennial Celebration" book

New Germany to Maryhill "A Historical Journey"

Woolwich Township Heritage Committee Work Plan 2023-2024

DRAFT – for discussion only 29/10/23

		Heritage Committee Initiatives Total Budget Requested - \$4000.00 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education \$1000.00 - Digital Media \$1000.00 - Heritage Designations \$2000.00 					
		Increase Community Awareness Develop or revise print and digital resources to be used in a variety of settings to increase awareness of heritage assets and work of Heritage Committee in Woolwich Township					
EDUCATION AND AWARENESS Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education - \$1000 - Digital Media - \$1000 		Required Resources		Intended Audience	Committee member leads/supports	Stakeholder consultation / Staff support and/or approval	Proposed Timeline
Develop and distribute print and digital Heritage Brochure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Content development - # required & costs - Identify and confirm distribution points - Create digital copy - Digital placement on website and promotion 		Print costs - Graphic designer \$250	Brochure images Represent a range of structures Zipfile from planning staff Focus on your own communities				

		List of properties Let's see what				
Video heritage tour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Determine points of interest to be covered - Confirm placement on website and ability to share at community venues - Align budget, timelines and points of interest - Draft contract specifics to secure videographer (within Township procurement policies etc.) - Find and contract w/ videographer 			Members of the community Travelers and tourists Capture by geographic area Areas/structures of interest .e. bridges, churches?			
Slide show <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Determine which digital assets from brochure and video can be used for a slideshow - Create digital slide show for use by community groups, schools, retirement homes, residents etc. - Determine if in-person support is needed to accompany presentation - Identify individuals interested in presenting (availability etc.) 						
Heritage road show <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss and clarify target audience, potential venues - Approach leads to determine interest and input on format and content - Determine committee member interest/availability to support initiative before proceeding 						

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leverage existing digital resources to meet anticipated needs/preference - Determine how best to promote and respond to community requests - Determine mileage costs etc. to support this activity - Monitor uptake and response to inform future efforts 						
<p>Digital sign board at WMC highlighting heritage sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -connect with WMC program lead/Rec director to determine interest and availability of digital sign board at WMC, requirements for use, timelines etc. -Identify digital resources to be included -Prepare in required format and provide to WMC management -Promote through local print and digital media -Monitor feedback 						
		<p>Heritage Designations Budget \$2000 Prepare and present heritage designation documentation and reports to staff and council for approval</p>				

<p>Present identified properties to Council for Heritage Designation: Carnegie Library in Elmira, Maryhill Cemetery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborate with ACO WR to complete Heritage Designation forms and reports to Council - Prepare required documentation and sent to staff - Present to Council for approval - Public celebration and media coverage of approved Designation and 					
<p>Priorize properties on Municipal Heritage Properties of Interest List</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop criteria - Apply criteria to listed properties - Determine 10-15 properties that we will focus our efforts on - Determine 'next steps' for each of the prioritized properties - Approach property owners to determine interest in proceeding with designation status 					
<p>Installation of Plaques on heritage structures.</p>					
<p>Walking tour, driving tour</p>					