

# Township of Woolwich Heritage Committee Minutes

November 8, 2023  
5:02 p.m. – 6:27 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  
Kim Hodgson  
Marg Drexler  
Michelle Pinto, Engineer, Transportation Rehabilitation for Region of  
Waterloo (Project Team)  
Steve Taylor, EA Project Manager (Project Team)  
Andrew Lehan, Senior Bridge Engineer (Project Team)  
Richard Unterman, Heritage Consultant (Project Team)  
Staff Present: Natalia Smiarowski, Records and Information Management Assistant  
Sherwin Meloney, Planner  
Regrets: Karen Cummings

## **Land Acknowledgement**

Councillor Bonnie Bryant read a land acknowledgement.

## **Call to Order at 5:02 P.M.**

## **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

None.

## **Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by Colleen Willard-Holt  
Seconded by Katy Boose

Adoption of the Minutes for September 11, 2023.

...Carried.

## **Work Plan Update**

### Work Plan Update

The Work Plan brainstorming session was deferred to the next meeting.

The plan will be presented by Co-Chair Colleen Willard-Holt at the November 14<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole Meeting.

## **New Business**

### Region of Waterloo Presentation

Michelle Pinto, Steve Taylor, Andrew Lehan and Richard Unterman of the Region of Waterloo West Montrose Bridge Rehabilitation Team, which will henceforth be called the Project Team, provided a presentation to the members. A copy of the presentation is attached to this meeting's agenda and can be found on the Township's website.

- Project Need and Opportunities
- Existing Challenges
- Background Studies
- Public Consultation and Feedback
- Proposed Rehabilitation
- Rehabilitation Alternatives
- C2 Being the preferred alternative of wooden repairs up to a weight of 10 tonnes.
- Alternatives Evaluation
- Recommended Rehabilitation Alternative
- Proposed Improvement
- Heritage Impact Assessment
  - The structure has been renewed many different times with including the earliest photos, show replacement of the wood, showing that the bridge has been an ever-changing structure
  - Some of these changes include:
    - the original wooden pier has been replaced with stone
    - Floor beams, chord beams, coverings on windows
    - The red colour was added in the 1960's
  - Project Team an Impact Document and Environmental Assessment Document will show all changes that need to be made to the heritage designation, a few of the changes will be:
    - Remove the Bailey steel truss
    - The white splash paneling
  - From a Heritage Perspective the C2 Alternative all wood structure is more like an earlier version of the bridge, and it would be able to reversed which is an essential requirement of for heritage preservation

The Project team noted that the next Public Consultation will be on November 22, 2023 at West Montrose Church from 6:30pm to 9pm. Comments will continue to be received from November 20 to December 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Committee highlighted the need for vehicular traffic on the bridge, as their intention is to bring the bridge to its 1881 original form which did not have large loads. The Project Team informed the Committee that pedestrian bridges are required to support 8 tonnes for maintenance vehicles. The Committee discussed possibilities of heavier vehicles using the bridge, current vehicle allowance, and whether there is a possibility of EMS vehicles using the bridge.

The Project Team noted that the focus of the bridge rehabilitation is to preserve the bridge, and not to accommodate all traffic.

The Committee discussed concerns that the bridge should not be used by any vehicular traffic and asked if the bridge could be closed to motorized traffic while keeping it open for horse and buggy traffic. The Project Team commented that the Mennonite community preferred the low traffic and speed of the West Montrose bridge compared to the 2 alternative bridges.

The Committee discussed the possibility of removable bollards.

The Committee discussed amending the motion to advocate for non-motorized use of the bridge.

### **Motion**

That the Woolwich Heritage Committee, regarding the West Montrose Covered Bridge Rehabilitation presentation, recommends that the Township of Woolwich Council direct the Project Team to:

1. Implement the Alternative C2 option for wood repairs (10 tonnes) within the rehabilitation project;
2. Work with staff to draft the necessary amendments to the Heritage Designation By-Law 60-2007 for Council approval; and
3. Proceed with next steps to obtain Regional Council approval.

And further that the Township strongly advocates that consideration be given to restricting the bridge to pedestrian, cyclist and horse and buggy usage only and that vehicular traffic not be permitted on the bridge.

Moved by Colleen Willard-Holt.

Seconded by Katy Boose.

...Carried.

### **Items for the Next Agenda**

#### Work Plan

Next meeting will be used as planning meeting for 2024 objectives.

**ACTION:** Colleen will present the 2024 work plan to Committee of the Whole on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### Thank You Card for Hans Pottkamper

A Thank You Card will be bought and signed for Hans Pottkamper.

**ACTION:** Marg Drexler to bring card.

#### Meeting Schedule for 2024

Create the new meeting schedule for 2024.

#### Appointment of 2024 Meeting Chair and Co-Chair

Appoint Chair and Co-Chair for 2024.

### **Adjournment**

Moved by Colleen Willard-Holt.

Seconded by Kim Hodgson.

That the meeting be adjourned.

...Carried.