

Township of Woolwich Heritage Committee Minutes

May 10, 2023
5:00 p.m. – 5:52 p.m.
Video Conference
Hosted in Council Chambers
24 Church Street West, Elmira

Meeting Chair: Councillor Bonnie Bryant, Chair
Attended: Colleen Willard-Holt, Co-Chair
Hans Pottkamper
Katy Boose
Kim Hodgson*
Marg Drexler
Staff Present: *Jenna Deboer, Economic Development and Tourism Officer**
Robyn Koutrouliotis, Licensing Officer/Administrative Assistant
Regrets: Allison Gramlow
Karen Cummings

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 Hans Pottkamper

Seconded by Colleen Willard-Holt

That the minutes of April 12, 2023 be adopted as presented.

...Carried.

New Business

The Importance of Heritage as an Economic Driver

** Kim Hodgson entered the meeting.*

Jenna Deboer, Economic Development and Tourism Officer, outlined ways in which heritage considerations intersect with economic development and tourism initiatives, including preservation of natural landscapes, ways in which heritage designation can indirectly increase property values, and positive social impacts to the community as a whole. She provided an overview of various avenues to explore, including tying heritage properties into the Farm to Fork series; improving cycling and active transportation routes throughout the Township, possibly in collaboration with border municipalities; promoting the Ghost Community project via ExploreWR;

self-guided tours with heritage highlights along the routes; and the Township's upcoming Community Improvement Plan (CIP)

The Committee discussed ways to attract and retain visitors, including incorporating a heritage tour into the Doors Open and Taste of the Countryside events in September and promoting the Ghost Community project in October. Further discussion will occur at a later date.

Action: The Committee will contact J. Deboer for tourism-related input when they begin the self-guided heritage tour project.

J. Deboer provided a brief overview of the Township's filming permit process.

The Committee requested J. Deboer circulate heritage grant opportunities.

** J. Deboer left the meeting.*

Heritage Awareness Initiative Proposal

The Committee discussed ways to increase awareness and foster heritage preservation in the community, including pairing heritage plaque installations with newspaper articles and coordinating on-site media presence. The Committee will discuss the feasibility of a heritage volunteer recognition program at a future meeting.

Chair Bryant noted the plaque installation for the West Montrose Covered Bridge has been delayed in light of the renovation.

Action: The Committee requested David Gundrum, Planner, provide a heritage designation plaque installation timeline update.

Action: The Committee requested Robyn Koutrouliotis, Licensing Officer/Administrative Assistant, determine the process for publishing newspaper articles as a Committee.

Ontario Heritage Trust

K. Hodgson has reached out to a contact at the Ontario Heritage Trust for information on available supports.

Site Visit: Former Chalmers Presbyterian Church, Winterbourne

The Committee discussed other local points of interest.

Action: K. Hodgson will reach out to the Committee offline to confirm a date for the site visit.

Work Plan Updates

Elmira Library Designation

Katy Boose and C. Willard-Holt will collaborate on the Elmira Library designation project.

Greenhouse Road Bridge/Beitz Bridge – Draft Plaque Content

Action: Chair Bryant will contact the vendor for information on plaque size and cost.

St. Boniface Cemetery Heritage Designation

The Committee considered incorporating the St. Boniface Cemetery Restoration documentary into the designation report.

Items for the Next Agenda

Designation By-laws

The Committee will discuss the designation by-law drafting process at their next meeting.

St. Boniface School Plaque Update

The Committee requested an update on the plaque installation.

Adjournment

Moved by H. Pottkamper

Seconded K. Boose

That the meeting be adjourned.

...Carried.