

Township of Woolwich Heritage Committee Minutes

Wednesday January 9, 2019

The Committee met on the above date commencing at 5:00 p.m. at the Township of Woolwich Administration Building, 24 Church St. W., in the Gosnay Boardroom.

Present: Bonnie Bryant (chair), Laurie Breed, Marg Drexler, Terry Rohr, David Voogd

Absent: Hans Pottkamper

Present from Township Staff: Dan Kennaley, Director of Engineering and Planning Services and Nancy Thompson, Admin. Coordinator

Call to Order

Adoption of the Minutes

Moved by David and seconded by Terry that the minutes of December 5, 2018 meeting be approved as printed. Motion was carried.

Ghost Community Signage

Bonnie sent an email to Della however she is away at this time. Defer discussion to next meeting.

16 Isabella Street

No further news since the last meeting regarding the planning applications. Dan noted that Hans suggested in an email that the Committee should proceed with the heritage designation.

Concerns on interior changes is still relevant and staff will approach Council regarding the proposed designation and proceeding accordingly in lieu of the rezoning proceeding at this time.

Dan noted Council may decide to wait for the rezoning and will keep the Committee posted. In the fullness of time the Committee will be required to comment.

39 Henry Street – Proposed Demolition

Bonnie was not able to gather any new information due to the holidays. Dan advised that Home Hardware requested the Township provide them with contact information for heritage consultants to prepare a heritage assessment report. The Township has two names and are looking for a third name to provide to them:

- Andre Scheinman, who completed the West Montrose Cultural Heritage Landscape report;
- Stephen Robinson who is the City of Guelph Heritage Planner and also does consulting work; and
- A representative from Golder Associates who completed the heritage report on the visitor centre at the Stockyards. Dan noted this individual lives in New Brunswick.

It was noted that the Committee has not ruled out sitting down with Home Hardware and speaking with them about the importance of the heritage conservation for the structure.

Bridge Reports for Peel Street and Middlebrook Road

Dan provided the Committee with the memorandums as provided by the Region. The Heritage Committee could provide similar comments, or endorse the Region's comments, on the Environmental Assessment for the two bridges.

For the Peel Street bridge the preferred alternative, at very least, is to maintain the bridge in situ. The most inexpensive option is to not allow any vehicular, pedestrian or bicycle use. Vehicular use is the most expensive. Even if you want to use the bridge for pedestrian and bicycle use this is still about 80 to 90% of the cost of allowing vehicular use. The consultants estimate of the costs are based on a worst case scenario. The Township and consultant will continue to investigate the options.

Dan noted there is a bridge in Guelph on Stone Road around the corner from the landfill site that is a steel truss bridge with a skin overtop. Guelph preserved the old bridge and built a new bridge. They allow pedestrians and cyclists to use the old bridge. Guelph took a moderate approach when choosing to preserve this bridge and had considerable cost savings. The Township may look to do something similar.

Bonnie inquired if any funding available. David noted that Cycle Waterloo Region is a group that he follows and wondered if active transportation would contribute to the preservation cost. Dan advised the Township has received information from the Federal government regarding funding and noted that a that new construction would not qualify as they are looking at innovative ways to fund active transportation. Staff will investigate this further.

Laurie noted the bridge was previously a cycling route for the area. David stated he can check mapping. It was noted that Hans may also be aware if it was a cycling route in the past.

Dan commented that for the Middlebrook bridge the preferred alternative recommended by the consultants was to close and remove the bridge. Dan advised staff would be looking to do the same for Middlebrook as is being considered for the Peel Street bridge. Bonnie noted that funding for this bridge would be shared with Centre Wellington. Dan noted he does not have the costing figures yet and as such unable to determine how much less rehabilitation would be if some of the risk with the worst case scenario is assumed. Bonnie asked if there are any monies available from the infrastructure levy fund. Dan noted there is some money however there are other projects and priorities.

Dan is optimistic that the Township can conserve both bridges with pedestrian and cycling access and will have Guelph information as example.

Dan advised that a public meeting will be held shortly for the Glasgow Street bridge. The preferred solution in the context of this Environmental Assessment will be to rehabilitate the bridge to a low load limit as a stop gap measure. The Township is also discussing with the Region and City of Waterloo alternative locations for a new bridge.

Laurie inquired if the Region, from a historical aspect, would not have interest in promoting that the bridge be kept. Dan advised the proposal would be to rehabilitate the bridge in the short term with a proposed new bridge in the future noting that you can only rehabilitate for so long. The existing bridge would then be kept for pedestrian / cycling only as a low load limit.

The Township needs to continue talks with the Region and City.

Heritage Wilmot – Heritage Day 2019 Exhibitor Information

Saturday, February 23 is the date of their event held in New Dundee. Bonnie inquired if the Committee has any suggestions on information that can be displayed, aside from the heritage photos. It was noted that tour pamphlets would be supplied by the Region.

It was suggested that one of the heritage plaques could be put out for display and they could include a proposal for the ghost signs.

Bonnie will pursue details with a representative at Wilmot and if there is space available determine if the material can just be delivered to them or if the exhibit needs to be maned.

David noted with the ghost signage could include a map noting the proposed locations. Dan suggested they could also include a map of the designated properties.

Work Plan

Dan reviewed some items on the work plan:

Schedule plaque presentation for the spring;

Identify potential heritage buildings / inventory;

Create promotional plan for the West Montrose CHL;

Cemetery review and assess status of stones;

It was noted the initial focus would be on heritage cemeteries. Marg noted one on County Road 7 has built a wall and set the older stones into it to preserve them. Dan noted stones at the Chalmers Church cemetery on Katherine Street are in relatively good shape. Laurie advised she wanted to do a preliminary investigation as to how big of a job preserving the stones will be. Laurie will review her information and advise who does restoration work on stones. Dan commented that Sally Drummond (from Caledon) had stone restoration work completed in the past.

Proceed with designating the Jakobstettel guest house;

Additional photos to be taken for display;

Dan advised Planning staff have a camera that could be borrowed. The pictures should include properties of interest as noted on the heritage register as well as public buildings such as churches and schools.

Write articles for local paper;

Hold a public heritage event;

Bonnie would like to see a walking tour and David suggested being part of Doors Open.

Bonnie noted the Committee could consider Conestogo for this event which is typically held in October.

Schedule speakers for future meetings.

Bonnie noted they found the Loge farm, which was located at the corner of Lundy Lane and Katherine Street, and the tailor was across the street.

Adjournment

Moved by Marg, seconded by Laurie that the meeting be adjourned.