

Township of Woolwich

Heritage Committee Minutes

October 13, 2021 meeting

Virtual – Zoom Meeting

From 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Chair: Councilor Pat Merlihan

Attended: Bonnie Bryant
Emily Brown (joined later)
Pat Stortz
Marg Drexler

Staff Present: Jeremy Vink, Manager of Planning
David Gundrum, Planner
Jeff Smith, Deputy Clerk

Item 1 - Call to Order at 5:01 p.m.

Item 2 – Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest:

None

Item 3 – Adoption of Minutes of previous meeting of June 9, 2021 and September 8, 2021

The committee had no concerns with the minutes.

Moved by Bonnie Bryant

Seconded by Marg Drexler

That the minutes of the Heritage Committee meetings on June 9, 2021 and September 8, 2021 be adopted.

...Carried.

Item 4 – Introduction of new member:

Patricia Stortz introduced herself and her background with communications, her travels abroad and her return to the St. Jacobs area.

Emily Brown arrived at this time.

David Gundrum introduced himself as a new staff member who will be a planning resource on the committee.

Item 5 – Peel Street Bridge Plaque

Chair Merlihan advised he has been in contact with a provincial representative who provided guidance on how heritage committees should operate, and he will attend a meeting to provide some training likely for the December meeting. Chair Merlihan suggested the Peel Street bridge would be a good example for the training session.

Item 6 – Comments from the Committee to Breslau EA Connector CHL

Mr. Vink introduced the cultural heritage report and asked the Committee if they had any feedback. The Committee discussed if there was a risk of losing farmscapes and Mr. Vink noted he is expecting minimal impacts, but it will depend on the route. The Committee discussed historic houses and structures identified in the area and the possibility of adding them to the Township's heritage registry. In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Vink advised that the studies appeared to be complete, and he expects to have a final report on the alignment of the new road before the end of 2021.

Item 7 – Review of 2021 projects (assign tasks, timelines, review of Heritage Plaques and timelines).

Mr. Vink advised he has contacted homeowners for Heritage Plaques and his next step is to arrange installation of the plaques. Chair Merlihan reiterated the Committee's goal is to have outstanding plaques installed before the end of the year and have some publicity around the plaque installations. The Committee discussed the plaque installations in the past, with Committee members and the Mayor which attracted media attention. Patricia Stortz offered to take this on with help from other members of the Committee. Mr. Vink advised that there small write-ups for each property and there should be pictures of each property. The Committee suggest creating a certificate to provide to homeowners.

ACTION: Mr. Smith will work with his staff to update the heritage committee section of the website to heighten the profile of heritage activities in the Township.

ACTION: All committee members can share thoughts of the website and other website designs they like with Mr. Smith.

The Committee discussed the status of 2021 projects and thought there may be an opportunity to complete ghost community writeups before the end of the year. The Committee will aim to complete four written ghost community descriptions by the end of the year and complete the remainder by February 2022.

Item 8 – Work plan and budget for 2022 approval

The Committee discussed additional heritage designations they would like to prioritize.

The Committee was happy with the budget and discussed presenting to Council as part of the budget process. Mr. Vink will confirm signage costs with the vendor and requirements for installation on Regional roads. The Committee was hopeful that signs could be installed by spring 2022.

The Committee discussed other goals for 2022, including:

- reviewing historical bridges and adding this information to our website in 2022
- reviewing churches of the Township and requirements for heritage designation
- continuing to grow membership in the Committee

Bonnie Bryant advised that there was no Regional Heritage Committee meeting this month so there are no updates.

The Committee confirmed the next meeting is November 10, 2021.

Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Bonnie Bryant

Seconded by Patricia Stortz

That the meeting be adjourned.

...Carried