



HERITAGE WILMOT

Township of Wilmot
Heritage Wilmot Advisory Committee

Minutes of October 2nd, 2019

Present: Nick Bogaert, Elisia Scagnetti, Marg Rowell, Rene Eby, Patty Clarke, Al Junker, Scott Williams, Artem Voytsekhovskiy, Tracy Loch (Curator), Jennifer Pfenning (Councillor)

Regrets: Yvonne Zyma, Barry Fisher (Councillor), Grant Whittington (CAO)

Special Guest: Ms. Angie Hallman

Meeting was held at the Swartzentruber Room, Township of Wilmot. Meeting started at 6:35 p.m.

Welcome

Chairperson Nick Bogaert welcomed the Committee members to the Heritage Wilmot Advisory Committee meeting and read the Land Acknowledgement.

Special Guest

Nick welcomed Ms. Angie Hallman, who requested to attend the Heritage Wilmot meeting to inquire about having a mural in New Dundee on the Fire Hall or Creamery property. Ms. Hallman shared that many people within New Dundee have approached her with the idea of having a mural much like the one recently painted on the New Hamburg Grandstand. Local New Dundee residents as well as organizations such as the Women's Institute, the Board of Trade and the Optimist Club have shown an interest in such a project. Ms. Hallman shared that she has collected statements / letters of support and will leave them for the Committee.

Nick thanked Ms. Hallman for her time, and said that he would follow up with her at a later date regarding next steps.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None

Review of Minutes from September 4th, 2019

MOVED by Jenn
SECONDED by Patty
ALL in favour

Business

Holland Mills Bridge interpretive panel

Tracy circulated a draft of the text for the Holland Mills Bridge interpretative panel for review. Nick also circulated copies of existing bridge plaques found around the Region of Waterloo. The Committee would like the Holland Mills plaque to follow the same layout and formatting of other bridge plaques that HPAC has produced.

Members of the Committee are asked to read through the draft text and return any comments or changes to Tracy by Monday or Tuesday of the following week. Tracy advised that the plaque should be installed mid-November of this year to conclude the project with Public Works.

Heritage Street Signage

As discussed previously, the New Hamburg Board of Trade is undergoing a beautification project in downtown New Hamburg. Heritage Wilmot offered to assist The Board of Trade with the development of new street signs that highlight the Heritage Conservation District. Tracy corresponded with Lyle Cressman during late-summer and offered to collect signage information and confirmed the Committee's support with the initiative.

The Committee confirmed that the grape keystone found in the HCD Plan and Guidelines should be used on the street sign. The sign and symbolism of the keystone will bring attention to the unique buildings within the District. Tracy will follow up with Mr. Cressman once she has some additional information from the Region about placing of signs. As the project moves forward, the Board of Trade will need to provide Heritage Wilmot with final signage designs for approval.

MOTION: Heritage Wilmot to support the use of the grape keystone on the heritage street sign project, as found on buildings within the New Hamburg Heritage Conservation District. This recommendation as well as a general shape is referenced within the Plan, with respect to creating new street signs for downtown New Hamburg. The Committee also recommends that a font such as Arial is used that would meet AODA guidelines rather than the suggested font in the Plan.

MOVED by Al

SECONDED by Marg

ALL in favour

Heritage Designation for St. James Lutheran Church

At the last meeting, the Committee presented two possible dates for the official unveiling of the designation plaque for St. James Lutheran Church. Members of the Church have informed Tracy that they would prefer to have the designation on November 3rd, 2019. The ceremony would take place after church services that day. A formal invitation has been created by Sherri Gropp and Tracy has mailed / emailed invitations to Wilmot's MP, MPP, Councillors and other guests provided by the church committee. Rene and Patty volunteered to be part of a sub-committee with members of St. James Lutheran to arrange plans for the ceremony. Nick also agreed to emcee the ceremony.

Information Package for Designated Property Owners

As previously discussed, Rene and Barry have agreed to update an existing information package so that it can be sent to owners of heritage properties that fall outside the New Hamburg Conservation District. Tracy circulated a letter that was previously used in 2012 to

send the owners of properties within the District. The Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to include a small write-up about the property so that the owner knows why the property has a designation. It was also suggested that the package include links and resources for grants and funding similar to what is provided by the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario. It was also suggested a return envelope could be provided so that the Committee could obtain historical information about the properties from the owners.

New Business

2020 Heritage Day

The Committee will need to start preparations for Heritage Day 2020. The event will take place on February 22nd, 2020 at the St. Agatha Community Centre. To prepare members of the Committee, Tracy will email a draft of the previous year's materials. The theme for the Heritage Day will be Places of Worship. It was suggested that save the date notices should be circulated by the end of the year, to provide advance notice.

New Dundee Murals

After Ms. Hallman's presentation and request for a mural in New Dundee, the Committee further discussed the idea. Members of the Committee expressed interest, however it was acknowledged current projects that are underway with the Committee as well as projects that have been also planned/scheduled require further discussion by the Committee at a later date. Nick suggested that members create a list of possible locations in each town / settlement area of Wilmot that could feature a mural. Locations must also be municipally owned. Starting a comprehensive list of buildings that could be used in the future might be a good place to start.

Tracy added that a compilation of the projects the Committee is currently working on as well as projects earmarked will assist with future project discussions and keep the Committee focused. She informed the Committee that the approved Arts and Culture Master Plan requires the development of a Public Art Policy to assist and guide any future plans for projects such as murals, outdoor art installation and other works. She shared that "public art" goes far beyond murals and there may be other forms of art the Committee may want to consider such as heritage-based interpretive plaques acknowledging notable people in Wilmot such as William J. Wintenburg or landmarks such as the Baden Hill or other features that could be blended with Wilmot's walking trails project. Tracy shared that the policy is scheduled to be completed in 2021/22.

Councillor Pfenning enquired if the Policy could be moved up and Tracy responded that due to other projects current and future, that the timeframe of 2021/22 is realistic. Councillor Pfenning asked if she could assist with the workload or if perhaps just focusing on murals in the Policy and not other forms of public art to speed up the completion date of the Policy. Tracy responded that when she brings the policy forward for Council approval it will be for the Policy as a whole and inclusive of all forms of public art. Tracy welcomed the Committee to research other municipal public art policies and forward suggestions for staff consideration. She re-affirmed that the Committee would see a draft of the policy prior to Council approval.

The Committee decided that in the lead-up to the Public Arts Policy coming into force, that they would research potential locations and types of public art for the Township of Wilmot.

This will provide the basis for the next location being selected for an art installation, so that when the policy is in place it can flow into work on an art piece.

Information sharing

Heritage Day awards

The Committee discussed potential people / properties to be honoured at the 2020 Heritage Day celebration. Members were asked to bring suggestions to future meeting for consideration.

CHL study

Tracy shared that Regional staff met with Township representatives to further discuss the preparation of a CHL study. Staff will come back to the Township in the near future with information about budget, workload and timing. Committee members were encouraged to continue to think of potential CHLs within Wilmot.

Adjournment – 8:29 p.m.

MOVED by Rene

SECONDED by Elisia

Next meeting – November 6th, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.