



HERITAGE WILMOT

Township of Wilmot
Heritage Wilmot Advisory Committee

Minutes of February 10th, 2021

Present: Nick Bogaert, Elisia Scagnetti, Marg Rowell, Yvonne Zyma, Al Junker, Patty Clarke, Artem Voytsekhovskiy, Councillor Jennifer Pfenning, Councillor Barry Fisher, Tracy Loch (Curator), Grant Whittington (CAO)

Regrets: Scott Williams, Rene Eby

Meeting was held virtually. Meeting started at 4:00 p.m.

Welcome

Chairperson Nick Bogaert welcomed the Committee members to the Heritage Wilmot Advisory Committee meeting. Barry read the Land Acknowledgment.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None

Review of Minutes from September 23rd, 2020

MOVED by Patty

SECONDED by Jenn

ALL in favour

Business

Non-Designated Registrar Inventory Update

Yvonne and Marg have been working to compile an inventory and description for all the historic school buildings located within the Township. Marg has been drafting the architectural descriptions for the buildings, while Yvonne has been drafting the history and ownership for each of the buildings.

During their work on the project, one of the current owners of a property has requested to not be included on the Non-Designated Register. Members of the Committee were concerned that leaving the building off the list would make the list of school buildings incomplete. It was discussed that inclusion of this property is important for the list to be complete in terms of school buildings. Additional research was discussed as beneficial.

ACTION: Nick will review the *Ontario Heritage Act* to verify a few details pertaining to this issue. Yvonne will also research what other Heritage Committees are doing in situations such as this.

Heritage Permit Application (39 Snyder's Road W, Baden)

The Committee reviewed information about the proposed building renovations and noted that some renovations have begun. Currently, there is little being done on the exterior of the building, since the focus is the interior.

New Business

Proposed Renovations (130 Queen Street, Baden)

Nick reported that the building has been separated from the larger parcel of land, and acquired by a new owner. Nick also had a chance to visit the property and meet with the landowner. He provided an overview of the proposed renovations and reconstruction at the property, which will result in restoration of the historic home.

Bridge Street Bridge - Environmental Assessment

Nick provided a brief update to the Committee regarding the Environmental Assessment that the Township has begun on the bridge. The Township is currently looking at different possibilities for the bridge including a full replacement. Public consultation will begin in the spring with the project planned to wrap up in Fall 2021. Al shared that the bridge is currently one of four truss bridges located in a rural area of the Region of Waterloo, and that concerns such as traffic should be considered. If replacement is selected, the Committee would like to recognize this bridge in the future, similar to the former Holland Mills Bridge. Nick will forward a draft of the current Environmental Report to Committee members.

Cultural Heritage Landscape project

Tracy informed the Committee that work has begun on this project. The two Townships that are the focus for 2021 are Wilmot and North Dumfries. Township staff (Development Services & Castle Kilbride) will be working with Region of Waterloo staff for this project. Part of the project will include input from local community members. Individuals will be able to add, update, and submit photographs of landscapes within the Township that they consider of cultural significance. When this process is ready, Wilmot Township will be provided with a link to website, so that the Committee can update information as well. Going forward, the Committee will need to create a list of all potential landscapes that will be ready to add to the project.

Heritage Day 2021 Initiatives

Through the coordination of Sherri Gropp and Tracy, the Committee has prepared and submitted social media posts in different topics relating to Heritage Day. Beginning February 11th, 2021, the submissions will be posted on the Township social media pages (Facebook, Twitter) along with Castle Kilbride's Facebook page. The information will also be promoted on the digital signs throughout the Township. These posts will act as a virtual event to engage the community during Heritage Week. Committee members also submitted several larger articles which will be printed in the Heritage Edition of the New Hamburg Independent. Tracy will email the complete list of post and articles to members of the Committee.

2021 Meeting Schedule

Tracy is currently working on finalizing the 2021 schedule. The meetings will once again take place once a month with a break during the summer. The format will remain virtual until further notice. Once complete, Tracy will circulate a PDF copy of the schedule to members of the Committee.

Correspondence

Information Sharing with Developmental Services

The Committee had previously discussed the possibility of being informed when a demolition permit is submitted on a property that is on the Non-Designated Register. This would give the Committee the ability to seek permission from the owner to document and take photographs of the building before it was demolished. Nick was informed by the Director of Development Services that the Committee could be circulated once the demolition permit was issued (when it was made public).

The Committee then discussed the potential turn-around time on the permit being issued and when the demolition would occur. The Committee also discussed that structures such as barns would not require a demolition permit from the Township, which raised some concern, especially for historic ones. The Committee was in agreement that another project could be to document all significant barns in the Township as a way to capture their historic value.

Round Table

Al informed the Committee that Paul Knowles is currently working on another volume of his heritage magazine. The magazine should be ready for circulation in the near future. Al also informed the Committee that he has also committed to writing a column for the Wilmot Post. The column will be printed twice a month and will relate to heritage. The articles would also include some illustrations.

Yvonne informed the Committee about the *Let's Tree Wilmot* project. The project is focusing on planting trees in different areas of the Township. During research for the project, Yvonne discovered some interesting historic information about the Arboretum in New Hamburg. The Arboretum is of historic significance in the Township and it was identified as one of the first of its kind on Ontario. The Committee agreed that this information would qualify the Arboretum to be placed on the Cultural Heritage Landscape project. They also discussed the possibility of recognizing the importance of the Arboretum with a plaque or commemoration outlining its historic significance within the Township rather than tree species.

Adjournment – 4:45 p.m.

MOVED by Al

Next meeting – April 7th, 2021 at 4:00pm