

MINUTES
City of Welland Heritage Advisory Committee
Wednesday May 6, 2026 at 6 p.m.
Room 108, Welland Civic Square

Present: Mary Adelle Patterson, Chair; Tom Higginbotham, Tia DeAgazio, Rose Dzugan, Nora Reid, Secretary/Treasurer, Researcher; Greg Lipinski, Staff Liaison

Guests: Greg Higginbotham, City of Port Colborne Manager of Government Relations; Tori Royer, Recreation Coordinator, City of Welland

Regrets: Connie McCutcheon, Vice Chair

1. Call to Order:

Chair Mary Adelle Patterson called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

2. Recognition of Traditional Territories

Chair Mary Adelle Patterson read the Land Acknowledgement recognizing that we meet on the traditional territories of Indigenous peoples.

3. Guests:

Greg Higginbotham, Manager of Government Relations, City of Port Colborne re: Port Colborne's links to Niagara Geopark.

Mr. Higginbotham reported that Port Colborne has had trails linked to the Geopark website for some time and he expressed the opinion that it would be beneficial to have all the trails in the Niagara Region listed. The Port Colborne link up never included a request for financial support nor extensive reporting requirements on trail use as detailed by Ian Lucas from the Niagara Geopark in his presentation to this Committee in April. Regional Tourism is creating a new website and integrating information about all trails across the Region but getting info onto the Geopark website would be most advantageous.

Tori Royer, Recreation Coordinator, City of Welland re: Accessible Upgrade for two doors at Market Square building (Designated under Ontario Heritage Act 1988).

Ms. Royer referenced the original wooden doors with decorative diagonal plank panels that are part of the "Reasons for Designation" of the City's Designation Bylaw and that are still in place. Currently only the front double doors facing south are fully accessible. The City would like to remove two of the side doors, one facing east and one facing west and replace them with AODA compliant steel, fire resistant doors with an internal push bar to meet current fire codes for emergency exits and improve safety. The new doors would be a similar colour and would include a side panel and a wide door. The new door would not be quite as wide as the current double doors when both opened. The original frames and transom windows above would be retained. She also noted that there was an ongoing problem with graffiti and damage.

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Committee members asked why the current side doors could not be made accessible with a push button like the front double doors. Ms. Royer stated that due to the weather it would not be feasible to keep both doors open and also that the doors are currently in bad condition. Consultant N. Reid noted that Designation is intended to preserve the character defining elements listed in the Designation and all original features need regular maintenance.

Committee members asked if the new doors could be made to look more like the original doors with the diagonal patterning or if it would be possible to put the original panels on the doors. Ms. Royer suggested the doors cannot be punctured but could possibly be etched to replicate the look and she will inquire. Members would also like to look at the doors in person on market day.

Consensus was that the original doors should remain intact. T. DeAgazio asked whether the original doors, if removed, could be stored and possibly reused in a display in the centre area between the two buildings if a greenhouse roof is built over that area. T. Higginbotham suggested the display could be protected by glass and include interpretive text explaining the history of the Market and the heritage significance of the original Market building. Storage could possibly be at the Museum or by the City at the Market.

Action: Market coordinator will explore suggestions discussed and proceed with a formal Application for Alteration to Planner G. Lipinski for the Market Square building.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None.

4. Approval of Minutes of April 1, 2026

Moved by Rose, Dzugan, seconded by Tom Higginbotham, that the Minutes of the meeting held April 1, 2026, be approved. Carried.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

Geopark Letter

Action: Chair and Secretary will proceed with a letter to Ian Lucas to find out if we can link to the Geopark without the \$5000.00 buy in and the proposed reporting requirements, emphasizing that we have a great interest in linkage with the Geopark and our Trail would be a great addition to the Geopark.

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Projects Report

St. Michael the Archangel Plaque

N. Reid has not received a reply from the Pastor about when the Parish would like to have a recognition ceremony.

Action: N. Reid follow up with Father Petryk with regard to a date for ceremony

Osage Orange trees

N. Reid reported that the Osage Orange plaque has been installed by the Parks Dept.

Historic District Mapping

R. Dzugan suggested that we do another “drive around” of the areas.

Action: Tom Higginbotham will continue to pursue accurate historical maps denoting the original boundary between Welland and Crowland.

Property Tax Rebate for Heritage Designated Properties

Staff Liaison Greg Lipinski reported that this report will be going before the City Council on June 16th.

City Review of Terms of Reference for Subcommittees:

Downtown CIP Report and Open House

Staff Liaison Greg Lipinski reported that the document will be available for comments from the public in June. Chair asked if Committee could get a copy in advance.

Potential Properties for Designation

Researcher N. Reid circulated a list of top picks to the Committee in advance of the meeting.

Action: Researcher N. Reid will add photos to report and circulate prior to next meeting.

6. Other Business – New Business

Proposed changes to the Ontario Heritage Act

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Consultant N. Reid reported that, as has been previously done by the Province, new changes to the Ontario Heritage Act have been included inside a new piece of proposed legislation that is unrelated.

This has to do with Contingency Studies required for Development Permits. Contingency Studies such as Cultural Heritage Impact Assessments are only mandated for development applications when the requirement is included in the City's Official Plan. Amendments included in the proposed legislation deal with questions such as "should there be a list identifying the types of application that contingency studies are required for?" and "should there be 'prescribed professions' for completing such plans?". If a prescribed professional completes such as study, a municipality would be required to accept their recommendations. Discussion ensued as to if such contingency studies for heritage should be mandated across the board by the province. Comments are open until May 14th.

Update to City Official Plan

Discussion deferred by City Council.

National Trust Conference Waterloo Oct. 22-24

Registration should open up soon.

Niagara Peninsula Genealogical Society Heritage Map

Discussion about navigating the website and map and question about what this Committee could potentially add.

Action: Secretary will forward some tips on navigation. Members should bring suggestions about local site to add to the June meeting.

Doors Open

Registration closed for this year. A member of St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church expressed the desire to see the church as part of Doors Open for Welland next year. Other possibilities include the Market, Central Fire Station and the Museum.

Treasurer's Report

Moved by Rose Dzugan, seconded by Tom Higginbotham to pay DocNet \$714.10 for internet access for one year. Carried.

Action: Committee will research cost of other internet providers for next year.

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Moved by Rose Dzugan, seconded by Tom Higginbotham to pay Nora Reid for \$166.25 for research/consulting. Carried.

Correspondence

Secretary circulated a list of correspondence received and sent between March 31st and May 4, 2026.

10. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn by Tom Higginbotham at 8:03. Carried.