

MINUTES
City of Welland Heritage Advisory Committee
Wednesday Feb. 4, 2026 6 p.m.
Room 108, Welland Civic Square

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

1. Call to Order:

Vice Chair Connie McCutcheon called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

2. Recognition of Traditional Territories

Vice Chair Connie McCutcheon read the Land Acknowledgement recognizing that we meet on the traditional territories of Indigenous peoples.

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None.

4. Approval of Minutes of Jan. 7, 2026

Moved by Tom Higginbotham, seconded by Tia De Agazio, that the Minutes of the meeting held Jan. 7, 2026, be approved. Carried.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

Projects Report

Property Standards./Property Tax Rebate for Heritage Designated Properties Recommendations

As requested, Secretary N. Reid forwarded these two recommendations passed at last month's meeting to Councillor Sharmila Setaram for advice on how to proceed.

Osage Orange trees

Dave Steven, Manager of Parks, Forests and Cemeteries reported to the Secretary that the sign has been welded to the pole.

Action: Parks Dept. will install this in the spring.

Historic District Mapping

Mary Adelle Patterson, Rose Dzugan and Nora Reid previously delineated the boundaries of the proposed Historic Areas to be recognized.

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Action: Researcher Nora Reid will produce a map with these boundaries for the Committee.

Aqueduct signage

Historical details for sign sent previously to Dave Steven, head of Park's Dept. T. Hughes was invited to work with them re: historical details. Mr. Steven suggests a sign similar in size and composition to the sign marking the former NS&T rail line at the railway trail on Thorold Road.

Action: N. Reid will research cost of Railway Trail plaque and ask Dave Steven about who will be paying for the plaque.

Members asked whether the City of Welland would be celebrating the 200th anniversary of the opening of the Welland Canal in 1829 and suggested that 2029 would be a good year to dedicate the plaque at the Aqueduct.

Action: N. Reid will find out if the City or Museum has any plans for the Canal anniversary.

Cook's Mills War of 1812 Trail and Niagara Geopark:

R. Dzugan noted that information about attributes such as length of distance between signs, total length of trail, amenities, terrain (surface structure) will likely need to be added to our Trail website before it can be linked to the Niagara Geopark list of local trails.

Connie McCutcheon reported that she had contacted the Ward 5 Councillors where the Trail is located to request the corrections needed on the Cook's Mills Trail website's interpretive text as there had been no response from Information Services. She reported that the corrections have now been made.

Action: Connie McCutcheon will forward to Nora Reid a response from Geo Park re: attributes needed to add to the Cook's Mills Trail website to link it to their site.

Action: Nora Reid will follow up with the City to find out how to facilitate their help with GIS for attributes such as length of trail etc. for the Cook's Mills War of 1812 Trail in order to add to our Cook's Mills Trail website.

Action: When weather allows, some members will drive the trail to confirm that the signage is now all accurate and note attributes such as type of terrain etc.

It was noted that the Welland Canals Parkway Trail has not yet been added to the Geo Park.

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Update and Reprint of Historic Welland Booklet

Action: When time allows after other priority projects, Rose Dzugan and N. Reid will look into updating the Historic Welland Booklet so it can be reprinted as we have none left.

Other Business – New Business

St. Michael the Archangel Plaque – this has been installed. Discussions with church need to take place re: a recognition event.

Action: Secretary will contact Father Petryk of St. Michael's to find out if they are interested in a recognition event to note the installation of the plaque.

Culture Crawl Sunday March 8th 2026 from 10 am to 4 pm at Meridian Community Centre 100 Meridian Way, Fonthill

Members were encouraged to attend this event on Sunday March 8th at the Meridian Community Centre in Fonthill which will showcase dozens of cultural attractions and organizations in the Niagara Peninsula.

Approval of 2026 Committee Budget

Staff Liaison Gregory Lipinski reported that the Committee's Budget for 2026 of \$17,501.00 has been approved by the City.

COWHAC New Operating Bylaw Approval

Staff Liaison Greg Lipinski reported that this is on hold while the City completes its review of Terms of Reference for all City subcommittees. This is expected to be completed and presented to Council in March. Comments will be solicited. Vice Chair noted that we have been asking for a City Councillor to sit on this Committee.

Action: Staff Liaison Greg Lipinski will provide this Committee with a copy of the draft report on the Review of Terms of Reference before it goes to City Council.

Update on Downtown CIP

Staff Liaison Gregory Lipinski reported that there will be an Open House for public engagement to present the proposed new changes to the Downtown Community Improvement Plan in the spring. Comments can also be sent to CIP@welland.ca. Façade Improvement and Building Improvement Grants will be doubled to \$30,000.00.

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Committee motion from January recommending Property Tax Rebates for Designated Properties

Staff Liaison Greg Lipinski reported that he is preparing a Planning Department Report regarding the recommendation from this Committee for a Property Tax Rebate for Heritage Designated Properties and the report will go to City Council on February 17th. Vice Chair asked if Committee could receive a copy of his Planning Department Report before it goes to Council. Committee is pleased to see this moving forward.

Changes to Agenda for future meetings

Action: Secretary will add “Additions to the Agenda” to the top of every Draft Agenda before sending to Chair for approval.

Treasurer’s Report

Moved by Tia DeAgazio, seconded Rose Dzugan to pay SafeStor Records management two invoices for records storage in February of \$28.25 and records storage for the balance of the year March to December \$282.50. Carried.

Moved by Tia De Agazio, seconded by Tom Higginbotham to approve the Treasurer’s report noting the following expenses: January/February Office Expense \$80.00, Secretary for February \$400.00, Treasurer for February \$60.00, SafeStor Invoice #44444 for February \$28.25, SafeStor Invoice for March through Decembers #03291 \$282.50. Carried

Correspondence

Secretary circulated a list of correspondence received and sent between January 6th to February 3rd, 2026 in advance of the meeting. Committee had no questions.

10. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn by Tia De Agazio, seconded by Tom Higginbotham at 6:54 p.m. Carried.