

**MINUTES**  
**City of Welland Heritage Advisory Committee**  
**Wednesday July 5, 2023**  
**6 p.m. Room 108, Welland Civic Square and via Zoom**

Present: Connie McCutcheon, Chair; Tom Higginbotham, Adam Godo, Nora Reid (Secretary/Treasurer, Researcher); Caitlin Kovacs, Policy Planner, City of Welland (Staff Liaison), Gregory Lipinski (Staff Advisor)

Guest: Rose Dzugan

Regrets: Mary Adelle Patterson, Tia DeAgazio

1. Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order by Chair Connie McCutcheon at 6:03 p.m.

2. Introduction of new Committee member and Staff Advisor

New Committee Member Adam Godo, a commercial archaeologist and new Staff Advisor, Greg Lipinski, were introduced.

3. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Deferred to next meeting so all members can be present.

4. Recognition of Traditional Territories

Chair Connie McCutcheon read a statement acknowledging that the land on which we work, live and play is the traditional and unceded territory of the Haudenosaunee, Ojibway, Chippawa and Anishinaabe First Nations.

5. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest:

None.

6. Approval of Minutes of May 3, 2023

Deferred to next meeting as only two members present who attended that meeting.

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

Cooks Mills War of 1812 Heritage Trail Signs

Chair Connie McCutcheon reported on a site visit walking the proposed Trail on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Attending as well were Dave Steven, Manager of Parks and Open Spaces; Gerry Kirk, Cook's Mills Historian, Nora Reid, Committee Researcher. The group stopped at each proposed site in order to determine where signs should be placed and speak with owners of adjacent properties if available. Nora Reid reported that she contacted Historic Sites and Monuments Board re: placing a sign on the fence of the National Historic Site Monument at the corner of Lyon's Creek and Matthews Roads and P.

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Boyle of Niagara Falls Planning Dept. re: permission to place signs at three “Living Witness Tree” sites that are located in the City of Niagara Falls.

**Action: Secretary will follow up with Dave Steven and City of Niagara Falls re: signs to be placed in area that is in City of Niagara Falls.**

Feeder Canal Junction Lock Road Signs

Staff Advisor C. Kovacs circulated templates of the proposed signs for Prince Charles Drive Federal Road.

Moved by Tom Higginbotham, seconded by Adam Godo, to approve the designs for three Feeder Canal Junction Lock road signs. Carried.

**Action: Niagara Region will install signs on Prince Charles and City Traffic Dept. will install sign on Federal Road, as close as possible to locations recommended by Committee.**

Aqueduct Designation Plaque Location

Committee’s choice of location for the stone and plaque on top of the old Aqueduct was submitted to Parks Manager Dave Steven, who expressed concern that it could be thrown down from there by vandals.

**Action: Parks Dept. will recommend an alternate location for the stone with the plaque.**

St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church Research

Finalized research report and draft of Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest for the Church were circulated to the Committee in advance of the meeting. Researcher N. Reid reported that both the report and the Draft Statement were reviewed by Pastor Jaroslaw Lazoryk and church representative Lesa Myciak and approved by them on behalf of the church.

Moved by Tom Higginbotham, seconded by Adam Godo, that the City of Welland Heritage Advisory Committee recommends to Welland City Council that the City designate St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church as having Cultural Heritage Value or Interest under the Ontario Heritage Act. Carried.

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Places That Were Booklet Update

Rose Dzugan reported that Researcher N. Reid has been editing the booklet text and pictures to format it to two properties per page.

Post Card Collection

R. Dzugan reported that she had inquired at the Welland Museum and they do have a number of Welland postcards which are not selling well and convenience stores no longer carry them. She is recommending that the Committee not proceed with printing more postcards at this time.

Inventory of Public Art In Welland

No update on when a Public Art Committee will be struck by the City.

Osage Orange Trees on Riverside Drive

These are native to Arkansas and Texas and were brought here by early settlers and used as hedgerows to contain animals. A line of these trees are plaqued at Brock.

**Action: Secretary will ask for permission to reproduce wording used on the Brock plaque and size and cost of plaque.**

Request from Aldo Parrotta to support Public Art Gallery in Welland

Mr. Parrotta has already taken this to Council.

Replacement Plaques for Carnegie Building and Merritt Park Monument

Original plaques were stolen likely for value of bronze. Replacement plaques in aluminum have been manufactured and will be installed by Kirkpatrick Stoneworks. Kirkpatrick will notify the Secretary when this is completed.

Staff Review of Operating Bylaw

Staff Advisor Caitlin Kovacs reported that the proposed Operating Bylaw for COWHAC was reviewed by staff in the Planning Dept, Clerk's Dept. and Legal Division and the document made more concise. Chair C. McCutcheon noted some significant wording changes including substitution of the word "may" for "shall" in several areas which could be quite impactful. Wording "shall" was retained with regard to having a Council liaison but "may" substituted with regard to having a staff advisor and members felt that having a staff advisor is crucial. Secretary noted that "may" was also substituted for "shall" with regard to the duties listed under the Committee's Mandate and Role and asked if that

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would conflict with the section of the Ontario Heritage Act stating Council is required to consult with its Heritage Advisory Committee on matters related to heritage. C. Kovacs replied that the City Legal Dept. wanted to keep the document flexible with regard to possible provincial and city legislative changes and wanted to leave the option for staff advisors to subcommittees open, also suggested that using “may” under the Mandate and Role section would give the Committee freedom not to respond if resources not available. In answer to the question about the Heritage Act provisions she stated that she felt the Ontario Heritage Act’s specific requirements for Council consultation with the Committee would prevail if there was a question about whether the Committee should be consulted.

**Action: C. Kovacs will bring these questions back to the new City Solicitor, in particular the use of the word “shall” with regard appointing a staff advisor to the Committee.**

204 East Main Street (Lawrence-Singer House) repairs.

Caitlin Kovacs reported that the homeowner wants to retrofit new window panes into existing frames. Staff report states that this will not impact the heritage value of the house. This information with letter and cost estimates was circulated to the Committee.

Moved by Tom Higginbotham, seconded by Adam Godo, that the Committee approve the window changes at 204 East Main Street and Chair to sign necessary letter.  
Carried.

Adam Godo asked why there is no property tax relief for designated properties as there is in Europe. Secretary N. Reid stated that a request was sent forward from the Niagara Regional Local Architectural Advisory Committee over 20 years ago asking that Designated Properties be placed in a special property tax classification with a lower rate. In response the Province instituted a programme allowing individual municipalities to tax Designated Properties at a lower rate but municipalities needed to opt in and Welland declined.

**Action: Committee to review the existing property tax rebate legislation for Heritage Designated properties and the possibility that the City of Welland might opt in to that programme.**

Historic Places Days July 8-23

Secretary has submitted Cook’s Mills War of 1812 Monument and Trail for inclusion in this national event and mentioned the Peace Garden in the description. This will be on the National Trust website for Historic Places Days.

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Designated Property Owner Outreach

Deferred.

Museum Update

Rose Dzugan is now Interim Museum Chair and noted that the Museum is in the process of restructuring its governance model. They are still holding activities for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations for the Carnegie Building.

Carnegie Building repairs

These were approved by Council at its May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Sale of Glasgow-Fortner House 24 Burgar Street

No report. Noted that this is a Designated Building and after a fire inside the building was renovated without the owners coming to the Heritage Committee as required.. Also noted that this Committee has requested several times over the years that the City Building Department notify the Committee when permits for Designated Properties are applied for.

Market Square Recognition Wall

Chair is working on this and will report at a future meeting.

National Trust Conference in Ottawa

This will be held in September.

**Action: Treasurer will determine if there is any allocation in this year's budget for Conference expenses.**

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report and Income and Expense were circulated to the Committee in advance of the meeting.

Moved by Tom Higginbotham, seconded by Adam Godo to pay Nora Reid, Heritage Research \$ 862.50 for research and consulting between May 2<sup>nd</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup> 2023. Carried

Moved by Adam Godo, seconded by Tom Higginbotham that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. Carried.

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Correspondence

Secretary circulated a list of correspondence sent and received from May 1 to June 30, 2023. Committee members had no questions.

Motion to Adjourn by Tom Higginbotham at 7:39 p.m.

Approved