

MINUTES
City of Welland Heritage Advisory Committee
Wednesday Sept. 3, 2025
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
Regrets: Connie McCutcheon, Vice Chair

1. Call to Order:

Chair Mary Adelle Patterson called the meeting to order at 6:06 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. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None.

4. Approval of Minutes of July 2, 2025

Moved by Rose Dzugan, seconded by Tom Higginbotham, that the Minutes of the meeting held July 2, 2025, be approved. Carried.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

Cook's Mills War of 1812 Heritage Trail

Members of the Committee walked/drove the Trail in August. Some errors in signage and positioning of signs were identified. Parks Manager Dave Steven will see that the Peace Garden sign is replaced with the correct sign. He is continuing to work on getting permission from the City of Niagara Falls for three "Living Witness" tree signs. He asked who will pay for that signage. Committee feels first option is for Niagara Falls to pay but will consider paying if they refuse.

Action: Secretary will let Mr. Steven know that Committee will wait to find out the response from Niagara Falls about whether they will pay for signs. Secretary will remind Mr. Steven about Geopark connection. Geopark can be notified when Trail complete.

Feeder Canal Junction Lock

Quote received from Kirkpatrick Stoneworks for a replacement plaque in aluminum is \$1020.00 plus tax. Cost for granite plaque would be \$878 plus tax and installation, rising soon to over \$900. Granite would not be attractive for thieves.

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Osage Orange Trees Plaque, Riverside Drive

Secretary reported that she and Parks Manager confirmed the location. Parks Department will install.

St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Church Recognition Plaque

No further report at this time

New Operating Bylaw

Staff Liaison Greg Lipinski reported that the City Staff are re-reviewing this draft Bylaw.

Outreach and Incentives for Heritage Property Owners

Greg Lipinski reported that recommendations will be made late September and more public engagement sessions will be held. R. Dzugan noted that there is a lot of concern from the public about loss of character through development within individual historical neighbourhoods. Chair noted that this is an ongoing issue for the public across the City. Chair also noted that this Committee is often not asked to comment before planning decisions are made.

Importance of designation under the Ontario Heritage Act to put some protection in place was noted. Secretary/consultant N. Reid noted that the general public thinks this Committee has some power to protect heritage areas even though it is only an Advisory Committee. She also noted that zoning and zoning amendments can also protect some of these areas from inappropriate development.

Tia DeAgazio asked about responding to the person who emailed the Committee with concerns about Parkway development. Response included that this Committee does not have authority to pursue. Greg Lipinski indicated that with an application to sever a person could comment through the Committee of Adjustment website. N. Reid indicated that protective actions could either be through the District Designation process or by the neighbours approaching the City to change or amend the zoning (if not R1).

Action: Tia will reply to inquiry with suggestion that neighbours in areas like this could petition to change zoning if not R1 (Parkway is R1 but Niagara Street is not), for a District Designation or individual owners could designate their properties.

Central Fire Hall Update

Central Fire Hall has been open to the public every Saturday from 9:30 to 12:30. Response has been fantastic with visitation averaging 25-30 people each day,

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especially by families. 70 people visited on August Civic holiday weekend. Lots of children's activities available. Central Station Education Initiative recently received a \$200,000 grant which will allow completion of the restorations/renovations on the second and third floors.

Digitization Project

No report.

Report on Heritage Planners Meeting

Grimsby is planning Heritage Districts and property tax rebates for Heritage Designated properties- up to 40% off, different rates for commercial and residential. When applicable City staff do inspections before approving. St. Catharines is also planning property tax rebates.

Property tax rebates are a carrot for designation, allowed by the Province but a City must opt in. This Committee could lobby Welland Council to opt in.

Secretary/consultant recalled that there was a suggestion many years ago for the province to place all Designated Properties in a separate property tax class at a lower rate.

Action: Secretary/consultant will obtain further information about local property tax rebate and possible provincial separate property tax class.

Mapping of Historic Areas in Welland

Driving Tour was postponed due to heat in summer. Rose Dzugan has created a summary of these areas.

Action: Rose, Nora and Mary Adelle will reschedule driving tour.

Interpretive signage for 2nd Aqueduct with website

Parks Department has received photos and statement of cultural heritage value chosen by this Committee for signage. Dave Steven, Parks Manager, states that he would like just one sign about the size of the Feeder Canal Lock signs. Text and photos for the sign will be put together internally by City staff.

Visit to Sts. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic

Rose, Nora and Tom toured the church, guided by the Pastor. Every inch of the interior is covered with beautiful decoration.

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Moved by Tom Higginbotham, seconded by Tia DeAgazio, that the Committee reimburse Rose Dzugan for \$50 donation given to the Church in thanks for the tour. Carried.

National Trust Conference October

Mary Adelle, Rose and Nora will attend the conference and will report. It has been six years since the Committee members have participated in any professional development.

6. Other Business/New Business

Old Post Office Building King Street

Mayor made request to Canada Post to transfer it to the City. No further report.

Property Standards for Heritage Buildings

St. Catharines has a separate section in Property Standards for heritage designated properties and the Bylaw Enforcement Officer makes occasional inspections to make sure that the designated elements are being maintained and have not been removed contrary to the Designation Bylaw.

Action: Committee may wish to recommend this to the City.

Treasurer's Report

Moved by Rose Dzugan, seconded by Tom Higginbotham, that the Committee reimburse N. Reid \$119.26 for mileage from April 1st through September 2nd. Carried.

Correspondence

Secretary circulated a list of correspondence received and sent between July 1st and September 1st in advance of the meeting.

A further letter with regard was received from Terry Hughes re: his proposal of a reflecting pool at the Second Canal Aqueduct. Secretary contacted St. Catharines Museum Director with regard to their plans for the upcoming 200th Anniversary of the Welland Canal.

Action: Chair Mary Adelle will work with Secretary to write an official letter to Mr. Hughes stating that the only action the Committee is prepared to take is to work with the city to install interpretive signage at the Aqueduct.

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10. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn by Tom Higginbotham, seconded by Tia DeAgazio at 7:40 p.m.

Approved