

# Township of Woolwich Heritage Committee Minutes

Sept 11, 2024

4:58 p.m. – 5:40 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Hosted in Council Chambers and on Zoom  
24 Church Street West, Elmira

Meeting Chair: Councillor Bonnie Bryant, Chair

Attended: *Colleen Willard-Holt, Co-Chair*  
Katy Boose  
Natalia Smiarowski  
Dianna Weltz  
*Marg Drexler*

Staff Present: Stacey Bruce, Committee Support Specialist  
*Sherwin Meloney, Planner*

Regrets: Terry Bowman  
Kim Hodgson

Italics indicates a virtual participant.

## **Call to Order at 4:58 P.M.**

## **Land Acknowledgement**

Chair Councillor Bonnie Bryant read a land acknowledgment.

## **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

None.

## **Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by Natalia Smiarowski  
Seconded by Dianna Weltz

That the minutes of June 12, 2024, be adopted as presented.

...Carried.

## **June 12, 2024 Action Item Review**

The committee reviewed their June 12, 2024 meeting action items.

Of special note, an update was provided indicating that expected schedule changes to undesignated properties included in a municipality's register under Bill 200, *Homeowner Protection Act*, 2024, have been moved to January 1, 2027, or a later date as may be prescribed.

**ACTION:** Co-Chair Colleen Willard-Holt to follow up with the interested historical planner from Guelph to set up a virtual meeting.

**ACTION:** Sherwin Meloney to contact Michelle Pinto, ROW regarding locating the 100-year time capsule located within the cement of the West Montrose Bridge.

## **Work Plan**

There was no discussion of this agenda item.

## **Special Guest Invitation Updates**

Zorra Heritage Chair, and potentially other Zorra Heritage members to attend the Woolwich Heritage Committee's November 2024 meeting

**ACTION:** D. Weltz to follow up with a realtor and architectural advisor about attending a Woolwich Heritage Committee meeting

## **West Montrose Bridge – Heritage Designation By-Law 60-2007 Amendment Update**

Sherwin Meloney, Planner, provided an update stating that a notice to the region and the Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT) and to be published to the newspaper will be sent out next week regarding this amendment to designated bylaw section 30.1(1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. After this, there will be a 30-day waiting period, which may be followed by another waiting period. It was highlighted that the registration and title documents need to be submitted along with plans for the rehabilitation, which is scheduled to proceed in the spring.

### Removal of the White Cladding

Photographs were shown as an update on how the bridge currently looks after the removal of its white cladding and the exposure of the interior steel bailey truss.

## **Reclaimed Materials**

### Old Winterbourne School House Timbers

This item was deferred due to the absence of a committee member.

## **Heritage Day (Sept, 24, 2024) Plans**

An update was provided that the driving tour and ghost community tours have been prepared. The walking tour will be updated for accessibility as a 'Walking and Wheeling Tour'. Concerns were expressed about Walking and Wheeling Tour Route #1 due to construction and its unsuitability at this time, but it was noted alternate Route #2 has been updated with new

information and photos. The committee discussed different formats for presenting the tour and decided to offer it as a PDF on the Township's website for participants to print or use on mobile devices. Alternative Canada Heritage celebration dates and the promotion of an Elmira walking tour were also considered, with a suggestion to promote the Ghost Communities Tour in October, aligning with Halloween.

The committee also recalled the past preparation of a Maryhill walking tour.

**ACTION:** Co-Chair C. Willard-Holt to follow up with Woolwich communications regarding posting the Walking & Wheeling Tour for the Sept 24<sup>th</sup> Heritage Day

**ACTION:** Co-Chair C. Willard-Holt to speak with Woolwich Observer staff to promote the Walking and Wheeling Tour to be posted on the Township's website and Sept 24<sup>th</sup> Heritage Day server

### **Local Summer Heritage Research Update**

There was no discussion of this agenda item.

### **Elmira Carnegie Library Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report Update**

It was noted that library images have been obtained from the regional archivist.

### **New Business**

The committee discussed a collection of historical photos, books, and the history of Elmira, including the bust Elmira experienced with the depression, original historical houses and the Elmira Public Library.

**ACTION:** The committee to revisit the discussion of having a member's collection of historical photos and books scanned and made into a public resource.

The committee also expressed interest in the historical significance of the former picture of the Queen displayed in council chambers.

**ACTION:** Stacey Bruce to follow up with Township staff regarding the whereabouts of the former picture of the Queen displayed in council chambers

A reminder was given that recruitment for the committee is open for interested individuals to join. The committee expressed interest in recruiting the full number of new members permissible.

An update was also provided on efforts to learn more about the history of the unique stone altars at Maryhill Church. While the priest has expressed interest in having the property designated, the diocese's position on the matter is unknown.

**ACTION:** Katy Boose to look into grants like the Ontario Trillium Foundation that the committee would be eligible to apply to

**ACTION:** D. Weltz to revisit obtaining a historical book from a community member and the interest of an owner to designate a property with a unique old stone porch

**Items for the Next Agenda – Oct 9, 2024**

None.

**Adjournment (5:40 P.M.)**

Moved by K. Boose

Seconded by D. Weltz.

That the meeting be adjourned to meet again on Oct 9, 2024.

...Carried.

Recorder: Stacey Bruce, Committee Support Specialist

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