

CLARINGTON HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting February 19, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Andrew Kozak
Victor Suppan

Jennifer Knox
David Reesor

Duane Cook
Leslie Wilson

REGRETS:

Paul Allore
Karina Isert

James Rook
Karin Murphy

Councillor Novak

ABSENT:

Philip Carlton

PLANNING STAFF:

Isabel Little

Sharon Norris

REVIEW OF MINUTES

The January 15th minutes will be amended to correct the numbering of motions from 8:02 onwards.

BUSINESS ARISING

16 Church Lane

The Chair has spoken with the owner and he has reviewed insurance and heritage properties documentation prepared by the Ministry of Culture. The owner has indicated that he wants to remove the designation from the building as he says that his insurance company will not give him full replacement coverage because of the designation. The Ontario Heritage Act does not address property insurance for designated buildings. Information from the Ministry states that insurance premiums should not go up as a result of heritage designation. A variety of other reasons cause insurance companies to increase premiums for older buildings if there is a higher level of risk, such as out-dated wiring, old heating systems, etc. Some insurance companies will not insure buildings based on the age of the structure alone.

Committee members have not heard of any designated property owners' insurance rates increasing due to their building being designated. The Committee discussed how the matter can be dealt with, including inviting the owner to a committee meeting to relay his concerns. Staff will contact other municipalities in regards to their experiences and report back.

21 Beech Avenue

The replacement window issue was discussed with Planning Services staff. The Heritage Conservation District is a three year pilot project with a review at the end of the term. As part of the District review staff will meet with the owners to discuss their heritage permit

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application. Improvements in the process might include providing owners with lists of experienced manufacturers or offering incentives.

Web Design Review

The Committee reviewed the draft website design and made the following suggestions:

- Look at U.S. websites for examples of what can be done
- Create a Heritage Tool Box page to post the following:
 - Resources on items such as interior storm windows and old plank flooring (use a disclaimer).
 - Guest articles from heritage property owners who wish to share their expertise.
 - Heritage restoration tip of the month
 - Anecdotes on “What Not To Do”.
 - Architectural Features – what they are and how they are made
- Post recognition of owners who have restored their property with web-based awards
- Possible contribution from the museum (ghost stories)
- Add fire insurance maps
- Web links to schools to generate interest
- Add district plan
- Clarke, Darlington and Bowmanville books purchasing information
- Pros and cons of heritage (value of heritage; new urbanism and how it builds on heritage)
- Offer a side bar “Heritage Library”.

The website should have a heritage feel to it and avoid looking modern. This can be achieved through the style of font selected and the colours used. It is felt that a website will unite heritage owners and the committee. Clarington’s corporate website could provide a link to the heritage website but questions about hosting and maintaining the site need to be resolved. Committee members need to determine the cost of hosting and the effort involved in writing articles, ensuring accuracy and keeping the site current. The Committee will continue to develop the framework, determine what areas to be worked on, determine who will do the work, and how much time it will require.

CORRESPONDENCE

CHO Newsletter for January 2008 distributed to members.

An announcement was received in regards to the Durham Water and Wastewater Master Plan Public Information Centre.

Staff replied on the Committee’s behalf on the Grady Drive Extension Class EA being conducted by TSH. As this is vacant land there are no heritage issues.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Clarington Highway 407 CAC

Bill Patterson's home is in the route of the East Link and is designated. Although not confirmed, Mr. Patterson may relocate his home.

MTO will be asked for an update on the impacted heritage properties.

Bowmanville 150th

Wellington Street may be closed for a few days for an agricultural display. The next meeting for this initiative is March 5th at 7:00 p.m. There will be a parade, similar to the Santa Claus parade, however advertising will be allowed.

PROJECT REPORTS

Inventory Update:

Safety vests have been secured for use when photographing.

NEW BUSINESS

Beech Avenue Reconstruction:

An Open House will be held on February 28th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Clarington Beech Centre. Members are encouraged to attend.

Applicable sections of the Beech Avenue Heritage Conservation District Plan were distributed. In summary:

- streetscape improvements including road and/or utility reconstruction/installation are to be reviewed by the Advisory Committee and a recommendation made to Council.
- HCD objective is to encourage public streetscape, landscape, and infrastructure improvements which enhance the neighbourhood's heritage character and are in keeping with the Old Bowmanville Streetscape and Infrastructure Implementation Plan.
- Clarington Beech Centre design objectives from Streetscape and Infrastructure Study should be revisited when street reconstruction is designed; however, the street reconstruction is not to include any upgrades, as dictated by the Council Resolution on the Heritage Conservation District (that means no additional width, heritage street lights, or underground hydro).

Between 2001 and 2006 an additional parking lot was constructed at the Beech Centre at the request of the Older Adult Association and the existing lot was reconfigured, resulting in 30 extra spaces. The Older Adults Association requested an increase in parking capacity.

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The least impact to the streetscape was agreed upon in that the area to the south of the Centre would be used for parking while maintaining a field to the west of the site for recreational purposes and to provide access. A preconsultation meeting was held with some of the interested parties last week. The Executive Director of the Older Adult Association was asked to provide program information to help determine the amount of parking required for the Beech Centre site.

The municipality should make every effort to avoid damage to the existing trees where road or underground service work is required. Careful consideration must be made to the impact that road reconstruction and/or widening may have. Grass verges should be preserved and streets not widened for on-street parking. There is 1 large Red Oak, 2 Copper Beech and 1 White Ash on the east side of the road. Relocating municipal services to the west side of the street where the tree canopy is less would cause less disturbance. The Arborist's report will be made available at the public open house. TSH is considering options other than trenching as it may damage the tree roots. The sewer lines to homes will be scoped and if the lines are of acceptable quality they will be bladdered rather than replaced. Phone and cable are not an issue as they are located to the back of the residences.

**Next Meeting
March 18, 2008
Meeting Room 1C, 7:00 pm**