



Heritage Stratford Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Heritage Stratford Advisory Committee (HS) was held on February 8, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., electronically.

Committee Members Present: Cambria Ravenhill – Chair Presiding, Councillor Danielle Ingram, Howard Shubert, Brian Johnson, Barb Cottle, Jack West, Jeff Atchison, Laura Dent, Jacob Vankooten

Staff Present: Alyssa Bridge – Manager of Planning, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Also Present: Reg White

Regrets: Robin Thornrose

1.0 Call to Order

Cambria Ravenhill, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2.0 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

3.0 Adoption of Previous Minutes

Motion by Brian Johnson

Seconded by Councillor Ingram

THAT the minutes from the Heritage Stratford Advisory Committee meeting dated January 11, 2022 be adopted as printed. Carried

4.0 Delegate: Reg White, The Friends of the Stratford Shakespearean Garden – Preservation and Enhancement of the Garden

Reg White addressed the HS Committee regarding upcoming plans the Friends of the Shakespearean Gardens have for gardens. The Stratford Shakespearean Gardens are 86 years old this year and the Friends are intent on restoring and revitalizing the

garden site which is visited by people all over the world. Mr. White shared the history of the gardens and the significance of items located throughout the gardens. In 2020, the Friends of the Shakespearean Garden published their first visitor's guide. Recently, the Canadian Peony Society has agreed to contribute 75 root stalks, representing close to a \$9,000.00 donation of peonies, which will dramatically transform the 280-foot-long bed in a very spectacular way. The Friends have a multi-year plan for the revitalization project, such as distinctive arbors throughout the gardens, restore the damaged sundial, painting the Huron Street entrance, the bridge, and the gazebo, introduce new spring flowering shrubs and small trees to the woodland area. Mr. White requested that in the future, the HS Committee consider recognizing the Shakespearean Garden for its 86 years with a plaque or recognize the visit of the Governor General of Canada in 1936 to the Shakespearean Gardens.

Reg White departed the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Cambria Ravenhill suggested the Designation Sub-committee could search for background information on the Shakespearean Gardens.

(a) Blue Plaque & James Anderson Awards – C. Ravenhill/B. Cottle/B. Johnson

Cambria Ravenhill reported the Sub-committee is still waiting to receive the plaques, which are scheduled to arrive at the end of April. Plans will be made for a presentation event in the spring.

The Awards Sub-committee received four nominations for the 2021 James Anderson Award and has narrowed their choice down to one recipient.

Motion by Councillor Ingram

Seconded by Howard Shubert

THAT the Heritage Stratford Advisory Committee awards Bruce Whitaker the 2021 James Anderson Award for Built Heritage for the work completed at 2-6 Ontario Street, Stratford. Carried

The Awards Sub-committee will work towards organizing a June event for the presentation of the James Anderson award.

(b) 2022 Projects – Robin Thornrose

Deferred to next meeting.

(c) Destination Stratford Audio Tours Update – Barb Cottle/Brian Johnson

Barb Cottle reported that she took all the points on the tour and plotted them on a map and colour-coded the architectural styles. She inquired if Destination Stratford is the best fit for a tour such as this. Brian Johnson advised he would like to see the tour developed, however he agreed that Destination Stratford may not be the right fit to host it. Ms. Cottle suggested that the Heritage page on the City of Stratford's website might be a good spot to post it. Danielle

Ingram stated that posting it on the visitor's tab on the City's website would also be a good spot. Barb Cottle and Brian Johnson will continue to work on the project and a final decision on the location will be made at a later date.

(d) Community Partners & Projects – Cambria Ravenhill

Cambria Ravenhill advised she would contact the Stratford and District Historical Society to complete a presentation on Dr. Eidt. If members are interested, she will also contact CHO regarding a presentation on the new Heritage Toolkit and new by-laws.

(e) Update on Former Perth County Registry Office – Cambria Ravenhill

Councillor Ingram reported that there are no new updates since the last meeting.

6.0 Designation Sub-Committee Update

(a) Non-Designated Properties Register – Alyssa Bridge

Alyssa Bridge, Manager of Planning, reported that she has received the work back from the Heritage Resource Centre. She inquired how the Committee members would like to review the information that Marg Rowell submitted. Members suggested having Ms. Rowell attend the March meeting to provide a presentation, if available.

(b) Avoncrest Property Update – Alyssa Bridge

No new update at this time. Alyssa Bridge, Manager of Planning, will follow-up with HPHA representatives in a few weeks. Howard Shubert reported that the Stratford and District Historical Society will be meeting with Mayor Mathieson and the CEO of the Stratford Hospital later this month to discuss the future plans of the Avoncrest site. Councillor Ingram will inquire with Mayor Mathieson regarding an update regarding this project.

Councillor Ingram departed the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

7.0 Development Services Report – Alyssa Bridge, Manager of Planning

No items to report.

8.0 New Business

(a) 265 St. David Street – Cambria Ravenhill

This designated property has recently undergone additional renovations. The Permit Review Sub-committee has received a permit application to install new windows over the front door. The existing window over the door is designated as a heritage attribute of the property. Unfortunately, the permit application is retro-active as the heritage windows have already been removed and replaced with new ones. The permit application has been returned to staff as a refusal.

Alyssa Bridge reported that historically, this is not the first time that the City of Stratford has had to deal with heritage applications for work that has already taken place without a permit. In the past, before the issue has been sent to Council, the HS Committee and the property owner have met to discuss if there were any options that would satisfy the committee and meet the record of designation before the permit would go to Council for an ultimate decision. If Council refuses the permit, it is subject to an appeal period.

Laura Dent stated that there is the potential to lay charges for work that has been done and is not compliant with the Ontario Heritage Act. It was noted that it is best to try to work with the property owner to bring the work into compliance, and very often it is possible to do that. She also noted that depending on the work done, they may also be non-compliant with the Building Code Act, if they have altered any window or door openings.

Alyssa Bridge, Manager of Planning, suggested that because the Permit Review Sub-committee has recommended refusal of the permit application, staff will take a report to Council seeking direction from Council on whether to proceed under the Heritage Act. Originally, By-law Enforcement Officers visited the site and documented the work was underway without a permit and advised the work must stop, and they are required to apply for a permit. Staff will facilitate a meeting with the Permit Review Sub-committee members and the property owner to discuss options.

9.0 Next Meeting Date – Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., electronically.

10.0 Adjournment

Motion by Brian Johnson

Seconded by Howard Shubert

THAT the February 8, 2022 Heritage Stratford Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Start Time: 7:00 P.M.

End Time: 8:22 P.M.