

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Scarborough Community Heritage Preservation Panel**  
(Municipal Heritage Committee)

**held at the Scarborough Archives**  
**Tuesday, June 13th, 2017**

**Present:**      **Rick Schofield**      **Don Allen**      **Matthew Gregor**  
                  **Sandy Grigg**      **Carole Whelan**      **Patrick Wong**

**Regrets:**      **Jim Karygiannis**      **Bob Saunders**

**Absent:**      **Joan Dolson**

**Guest:**      **Tamara Anson-Cartwright** (City staff/ Preservation Services)

**1.      Guest Presentation**

S-170600

The Chairman welcomed Tamara Anson-Cartwright to the meeting and introduced our members. Tamara is one of the City staff personnel working in Preservation Services. Tamara spoke about the work of Preservation staff, outlining several current initiatives including:  
--work on updating the City Register of heritage properties  
    -- over 1000 potential heritage properties are not yet on the register  
--Preservation staff are working on a City-wide heritage survey seeking, among other things, public input on heritage & costs associated with conducting the survey and dealing with issues.  
--Heritage Conservation Districts are a large component of staff work and over 10 districts are currently being assessed with many others, including Midland Park, waiting for inclusion in queue.

Following her presentation, several questions were addressed and then the Chairman thanked Tamara for coming out to Scarborough to keep the committee updated on various initiatives.

**2.      Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

S-170601

"Be it resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved."

(*Don Allen,      Sandy Grigg*)      Carried

**3.1 Chairman's Report on Pending Items: Harris/White property**

S-170602 The Chairman reported that Vivian White, property owner, had requested that the property be designated in recognition of the major contributions made by her late husband William White.

After several meetings among Sheila White, Councillor Chin & his staff and the Chairman, a completed recommendation to designate the property has been produced and will be on the agenda of the next Preservation Board meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 22nd.

**3.2 Chairman's Report on Other Major Pending Items**

S-170603 The Chairman reported on the following pending items:

- (i) Restoration of the exterior of the **historic Bickford House (Guild)** is complete and the official re-opening has been held. Interior work on the Bickford building is still ongoing.
- (ii) No recent work appears to have been done on the **Stinson building @ 171 Midland Ave.** Sandy agreed to continue monitoring this site but it appears that very little effort is being made to renovate and/or restore the building.
- (iii) The Chairman noted that the **Hamel house and barn @ 6465 Steeles** are vacant and boarded up.
- (iv) The Chairman updated the status of the **Menno Reesor site, located at 6461 Steeles Avenue East,** including a memo from Jayne Kozovski, staff member at the Toronto Wildlife Centre which is currently leasing the 67 acre site.
- (v) **The Stonehouse family's Regency cottage** is currently vacant but fenced for some protection. Development appears to be starting on the vacant property. The adjacent Underwood/Weldrick brick dwelling is also part of this future development site. Both are designated by Bylaws 904-2006 and 107-2007 respectively.
- (vi) The **Maxwell Mill ruins** are vandalized regularly and completely unprotected. Listing and/or designation might be too late to preserve what's left and security of the isolated property would be difficult at best. The Chairman continues to monitor the site.

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

**"That the Chairman's Report on Pending Items be received"**

*(Sandy Grigg Carole Whelan)*

Carried

**ACTION: Chairman, Carol and Sandy**

**4.1            Communication:    Archaeological Collections Repository**

S-170604        The Chairman circulated an update on the “City of Toronto Archaeological Collections Repository” for review by the committee. Members were asked to review the document and send any relevant comments to the Chairman, who will forward them to the appropriate staff.

City staff have been asked to look for the availability of any City-owned facilities which might be suitable to accommodate an archaeological collections repository, Currently 51% of artifacts are in the possession of consultants and firms, 25% in publicly-owned sites such as the TDSB and TRCA, 5% in City Museum and Heritage Services sites and upwards of 19% unknown or destroyed.

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

**“That the proposed Archaeological Repository communications be received for review and comments by committee members”**

*(Patrick Wong,    Don Allen)*            Carried

**ACTION: All committee members**

**4.2            Communications:    Chapter 103 Heritage, Toronto Municipal Code**

S-170605        The Chairman circulated a summary of **the roles of the Community Preservation Panels**, the Toronto Preservation Board, and Heritage Toronto for the review and information of the committee members.

**4.3            Communications:    Midland Park HCD update**

S-170606        The Chairman circulated a report from the **Midland Park HCD committee** outlining its very successful Doors Open Tour and the recent nomination approval from Heritage Toronto for inclusion in its 43rd Annual awards selection under the “Community Heritage Category”.

Carried

**4.4            Communications:    Toronto Wildlife Centre**

S-170607        The Chairman circulated a report from the **Toronto Wildlife Center** regarding their lease of the 67 acre property known as the Menno Reesor property at 6461 Steeles Avenue.

The Wildlife Centre’s lease at Downsview Park is expiring and the building will be demolished. The former Reesor farm and current 1915 farmhouse are on the City’s Register of heritage properties and the Wildlife Centre has received funding to begin restoration of the house and the construction of outdoor enclosures for its wildlife patients.

**4.5            Communications:    Community Heritage Ontario**

S-170608        The Chairman circulated the minutes from the **2017 AGM of CHO** which was held in conjunction with the annual Ontario Heritage Conference, held this past week in Ottawa. He noted that Tamara was one of the guest presenters who spoke on Municipal Grant programs and Bill C 323.

**4.6            Communications:    Misc.**

S-170609        The Chairman reported that there have been several email communications recently, involving:

- initiatives to turn the former Chalmers cemetery site into a City-owned parkette
- Highland Creek Public School's 100th anniversary & recent construction at the designated site
- presentation by the Chairman to a CARP program dealing with heritage preservation
- request for information on roof repair styles needed for St. Margaret's Church (designated)
- heritage display set up by Chairman and Don Allen at Guildwood Heritage Day
- program proposal for local Historical Society dealing with designated & listed sites

**BE IT RESOLVED**

**"That all recent communications be received for information and required action"**

*(Don Allen,    Matthew Gregor)*            Carried

**5.1            New Business:        City Register of Heritage Sites (errors/corrections)**

S-170610        The Chairman outlined his recent, extensive **review of the City's Register** as it relates to Scarborough properties. He provided a list of errors and detail omissions including six sites which had been demolished several years ago, sites with no municipal address recorded, sites noted on the map in the wrong location, and GPS co-ordinates which make it difficult to locate heritage buildings on large properties which exist in northern parts of Scarborough.

Tamara had indicated earlier that staff would be pleased to work with the Chairman to make the necessary corrections and additions to make the register more accurate.

The Chairman asked all committee members to review the Register over the summer months and report to him, any concerns they found with regard to inaccurate or incomplete information so that a complete and comprehensive report can be made to staff.

**ACTION: All committee members**

**5.2            New Business:            Preservation Board Report**

S-170611        Matthew summarized the recent activities of the Toronto Preservation Board and circulated the upcoming recommendation to designate 33 Murray Ave (Harris/White property) under the terms of the Ontario Heritage Act.

He also summarized the review of the roles of the panels in relationship to the Preservation Board and Heritage Toronto, the latter being the primary advocacy board for heritage.

Matthew also discussed a recent proposal for the four panels to create a single logo for all four panels. After some discussion, the committee decided that it would be better for each community panel to display their own unique logo rather than attempt to imply that the four communities all share the same heritage preservation needs within their unique communities. While the roles of the panels as outlined in Chapter 103, are the same, each panel deals with a different community and its unique needs such as highrise condo development in the downtown core vs the preservation of farm houses in Scarborough and other "suburban" panels. Promoting neighbourhood heritage/history, recognizing the efforts of local citizens and providing public awareness/promotion of local community history varies from panel to panel.

**BE IT RESOLVED**

**"That the SCPP support unique logos and/or letterheads for each of the four community panels and one logo for all would not be appropriate."**

*(Patrick Wong,     Don Allen)*            Carried

**5.3            New Business:            Canada 150 Celebrations @ Thomson Park**

S-170612        The Chairman reported that arrangements have been made to showcase our heritage properties along with the Scarborough Historical Society's Archives and the Scarborough Museum at Thomson Memorial Park on **July 1st, Canada Day**, as outlined in the role of the panels noted below:

- provide public awareness and promotion of issues relating to heritage properties in co-operation with other heritage groups,
- promote neighbourhood heritage and history,
- co-ordinate related heritage activities with local museums, societies et al

The display will be set up all day in a large marquee in Thomson Memorial Park on Saturday July 1st. as part of the community's Canada 150 celebrations.

**5.4            New Business:            Community Walking Tour**

S-170613        Due to the extensive activities, displays and programs already planned for the summer, the committee decided to forgo its annual summer site tour. Committee members will look at possible site tours for next year and report back to the committee at a later date.

5.5 **New Business:** **former Chalmers Cemetery issues**

S-170614 The Chairman circulated material relating to the site proposal for the former Chalmers cemetery which the Chairman had been asked to bring to the committee for comment:

**Background Information:**

In 1858, the property was deeded to Trustees and a Presbyterian church building was erected on the site in 1859. In 1892, the congregation merged with the York station (Emmanuel) in East Toronto and the building was demolished. Over 70 interments took place between 1861 and 1941. In 1950, over the written objections of many of the descendants, the trustees decided to sell the property.

On Feb. 15, 1951, O. Reg. 33/51 of the cemetery Act was passed, officially closing the cemetery. A quick transcription of the stones was made in early 1952 and excavation of the remains began on May 6th/52. The human remains were placed in common wooden crates and, with what was left of any caskets and the original stone markers, were transported to nearby Pine Hills cemetery where they were placed into a large common pit. A large monument now stands on that site with only the names of those who were recorded earlier but without any dates or other information which were on the original monuments.

**Redevelopment**

The property was eventually sold to Imperial Oil who built an Esso Service station on the site. Except for the installation of large gasoline holding tanks beneath the pumps, the rest of the property remained undisturbed and was simply paved over. The service station later closed and was demolished. The site was never properly documented and there remains a possibility of human remains still buried on site.

**Recent Assessments for proposed residential construction of townhouses**

A Stage 1 background study archaeological assessment was completed and site testing plus a cemetery investigation is required (Stage 2 assessment). This has not been completed as of June, 2017.

According to the City planner, the new owner is aware of a number of issues that need to be resolved before they could submit a revised site plan. Preservation staff have reached out to the project manager of Parks, Planning and Development to get some perspective on Parks desire to acquire this land for a park. The city has a parkland acquisition budget. The owners may be happy to sell to the city as developing the land has presented some challenges for them. Parks may consider taking on the site given the archaeological significance. Due diligence would be required before City took on anything further. A memorial plaque, park bench and some trees for the site have been proposed by local residents and descendants of those originally interred on the site.

(Carole Whelan, Don Allen) Carried

**ACTION: City staff, developer et al**

**6. Adjournment**

S-170615      There being no further business before the committee,

BE IT RESOLVED:

“That the meeting be adjourned”

Next regularly scheduled meeting of the committee will be held on Tuesday, September 12th

*Don Allen*      Carried