

MINUTES OF MEETING

Scarborough Community Heritage Preservation Panel
(Municipal Heritage Committee)

held at the Scarborough Archives
Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Present: Rick Schofield Don Allen Matthew Gregor
Sandy Grigg Carole Whelan Patrick Wong
Jim Karygiannis Bob Saunders

Absent: Joan Dolson

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

S-170901 "Be it resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved."

(Carol Whelan, Don Allen) Carried

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

S-170902 The Chairman reported that the Harris/White property at 33 Murray Avenue was recommended for designation by SCPP, Preservation staff, and the Preservation Board, and then approved by Scarborough Council on Sept. 6th. The designated property will soon be placed on the market by the current owner, Sheila White and we will likely deal with development proposals for the property in the coming months.

A complete 42 page report was prepared by staff and relevant details circulated to the committee members.

2.2 Chairman's Report on Pending Items: City's Heritage Register

S-170903 The Chairman reviewed the corrections needed on the City's Heritage Register for the Scarborough area. Seven of the listed properties have been demolished in the past and one designated property is missing from the Register. In addition, over 20 properties have the GPS location incorrect on the map. In some cases, structures on large properties can not adequately be pin-pointed by GPS but in other cases, the GPS has been placed in the wrong location.

The members had been previously asked to examine the Register and note any other issues but none were added.

The Chairman agreed to provided a detailed list/report to preservation staff so that corrections can be made in a timely manner.

ACTION: Chairman to contact Preservation staff and send the proposed revisions to the appropriate person.

2.3 Chairman's Report on Other Major Pending Items

S-170904 The Chairman reported on the following pending items:

- (i) The Chairman noted that the **Hamel house and barn @ 6465 Steeles** remain vacant and boarded up. The future of the property is still uncertain but development is likely.
- (ii) 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.
- (iii) No recent work appears to have been done on the **Stinson building @ 171 Midland Ave.** Sandy and the Chairman continue monitoring this site but it appears that very little effort is being made to renovate and/or restore the building.

ACTION: Committee members to monitor sites in their area

2.3 Chairman's Report on Other Major Pending Items (cont.)

S-170904 The Chairman reported on the following pending items:

- (iv) There has been no word from Preservation staff on the status of properties previously recommended for listing.
 - (a) The Chairman noted that the former **Eastville Radar station** appears to be ready for redevelopment according to local residents. It is believed to be government owned but that has yet to be clarified.
 - (b) The former **Highland Creek Lawn Bowling Club building** was recently vandalized and has now been boarded up by the City which owns the property.
 - (c) **Dunker's Flow** may be an issue as the waterfront trail moves along the foot of the bluffs. Sandy Grigg will keep the committee informed/updated on this 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.
- (vii) The former **TD bank** at 1448 Kingston Rd (NE corner at Warden) may be threatened as plans are being developed to demolish adjacent structures as part of the Kingston Rd redevelopment project. Preservation staff will be contacted to keep an eye on this site.

BE IT RESOLVED:

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

(Sandy Grigg Bob Saunders)

Carried

ACTION: Committee members to monitor sites in their area

3.1 Communications: Possible listing of large white oak tree in the Maryvale area

S-170905 The Chairman circulated a letter from concerned citizens in the Maryvale area (Pharmacy and Ellesmere) relating to a white oak tree on private property that they claim is more than 245 years old. The group has contacted Forests Ontario in the hope of having the tree listed within their Canada 150 survey project.

Since the tree does not appear to be threatened and would be protected by the City's current tree bylaw, the committee agreed to table the item until further concerns arise.

3.2 Communications: Possible Listing of the Wexford Presbyterian Church

S-170906 Bob Saunders reported that the unique architecture of the Wexford Presbyterian Church, built in 1963 by architects Dunlop, Wardell, Matsui and Aiken, might be worthy of being added to the Heritage Register as a listed property. The round structure with twelve gable-like windows is located at 7 Elinor Drive at Lawrence Ave. East and its architectural design is unique.

The Chairman noted that the church congregation is still active and that the building is relatively new and not threatened at this time. However, its architecture leads one to give it special attention.

Bob agreed to contact the church to ascertain their interests in having the building listed on the Heritage Register and report back to the committee.

ACTION: Bob Saunders

3.3 Toronto Waterfront Project

S-170907 Sandy Grigg presented a summary of the Draft Environmental Assessment on the Scarborough Waterfront Project and noted the possible impact on the Dunker's Flow, a property recommended for listing by this committee back in 2009.

Sandy agreed to continue to monitor this project and report back to the committee when further developments takes place.

ACTION: Sandy Grigg

3.4 Communications: Toronto Wildlife Centre @ 6461 Steeles Ave. east

S-170908 Patrick Wong reported on the fundraising efforts by the Toronto Wildlife Center (TWC) in an effort to restore the heritage building and construct other structures on the site as part of their ongoing work in operating a wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and education centre in the Rouge National Urban Park.

The property is currently owned by the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the group would like ownership transferred to Parks Canada which has indicated a willingness to enter into a tripartite with TWC and TRCA for the operation of the facilities.

The main holdback is the lack of water service and the need to use wells in the short term.

Patrick Wong agreed to contact TRCA and TWC for further updates.

ACTION: Patrick Wong

3.5 Communications: Toronto Preservation Report

S-170909 Matthew Gregor reported on several items which may have impact on Scarborough sites.

- (i) A proposal for batch listings to reduce the backlog in listing recommendations would have a main influence in the downtown and major arterial roads in the former City of Toronto area.
- (b) A proposal to create a heritage survey program with a team of student surveyors.

The committee expressed concern that, while the students might be knowledgeable about architectural components of possible listings, they may not have the contextual or community knowledge of possible listing sites. The Chairman agreed to send a letter to the City outlining the concerns expressed by the committee.

ACTION: Chairman

3.6 Communications: Twyn Rivers Drive issues

S-170910 The Chairman circulated communications from CBC news regarding the issue of heavy trucks using Twyn Rivers Drive, a scenic route through the Rouge Park and a popular travel link between Scarborough's Sheppard Avenue East and Pickering's Sheppard Avenue .

The winding road includes two century old bridges which are designated under the Ontario Heritage Act: Stotts Bridge (1915) Bylaw #25154 and Maxwell Bridge (1927) Bylaw #25152.

Weight limit signs are posted but often ignored by transport truck drivers using only their GPS rather than reading the signs, who then get stuck at the bottom of the hills. The road is also quite narrow and large trucks are not able to turn around.

Local Councillors have been contacted and have varying positions from banning all trucks regardless of their weight limit, to closing the road entirely.

The committee suggested that, due to the historical significance and age of the two bridges, the road be restricted to cars only and that all trucks be banned.

BE IT RESOLVED:

"That the Chairman contact the local councillors for their comments and support on a recommendation to ban all trucks from using Twyn Rivers Drive and that appropriate signage be installed on both sides of the valley well in advance of the hills so truck drivers are aware of the ban (Sheppard Ave cutoff in Scarborough and Altona Road in Pickering)"

The City of Toronto's Transportation Dept. would also need to contact their Pickering colleagues for their support as well.

(Don Allen, Carol Whelan) Carried

ACTION: Chairman

3.7 Communications: Toronto Heritage Awards

S-170911 Sandy Grigg reported that the Midland Park Alliance group has been short-listed for a possible award as part of Heritage Toronto's annual award program. The community group continues its effort to have the area declared a Heritage Conservation District, the first for the Scarborough community.

3.8 Communications: Chalmers Cemetery

S-170912 The Chairman circulated a letter from Chuck Pomeroy whose family ancestors date back to Scarborough in the 19th century. Mr. Pomeroy notes that while James Grant's remains are reported to have been removed from the cemetery in 1952 and reburied at Pine Hill's along with fifty other early settlers who had been buried at Chalmers, there is no record of James' wife Barbara's remains being relocated.

The possibility exists that Barbara's remains, possibly others, remain beneath the abandoned property on the north-east corner of St. Clair and Pharmacy. Much of the land has never been thoroughly excavated as the only other use for the old cemetery was a gas station and parking lot.

Although no communications from Susan Hughes, HPS Archeology Project Manager, was received in time for discussion at the committee meeting, the following email was received shortly thereafter:

"Sorry for the delay in getting back to you. I checked in with the planner Kelly Dynes on this project for an update when I returned from vacation. No action from the existing owner and no further discussion with the City regarding parkland use. The city may be issuing a closure letter on the development application file due to inaction.

HPS has asked that the closure letter if issued include a comment on the requirement for a Stage 2 archaeological assessment and cemetery investigation, in accordance with the OHA and 2011 Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists, prior to any soil disturbance activity taking place on site."

TABLED

3.9 Community Heritage Ontario

S-170913 The summer issue of CHOnews was circulated to committee members. One article features the Hastings House moved from Markham and Finch and is one of five houses in the former Cullen Gardens "Prettiest Street in Ontario" which are now threatened. Developers of the property have offered the buildings for \$ 1. to anyone wanting to move them off the site. Otherwise they will be demolished.

4.1 New Business: Proposed demolition of Listed Property @ 3315 Midland Avenue

S-170914 The Chairman reported that HPS had contacted him for committee response for a proposed demolition of the Chris L'Amoreaux house at 3315 Midland Avenue.

The small board and batten frame house sits back from the road behind Tamarack Day Care Centre which occupies the large lot but operates from a newer three storey building. There appears to be other uses of the newer building but it is unclear what use, if any, the old farmhouse has.

The property is currently listed for its historical connection to the L'Amoreaux family after whom the community was named and for its architectural significance, being one of a few 19th century board and batten houses remaining in Scarborough.

After discussion by the committee:

BE IT RESOLVED

"That the SCPP recommend that the Chris L'Amoreaux dwelling at 3315 Midland Avenue be recommended for designation under the terms of the Ontario Heritage Act."

(Jim Karygiannis, *Don Allen*) Carried

4.2 New Business: Andrew Paterson House @ 2723 Kennedy Road

S-170915 The committee was asked to comment on an apparently abandoned 19th C. farmhouse at 2723 Kennedy Road.

The house was built in the 1850s along with similar houses built by three Paterson brothers. each sharing part the the original 200 acre property. The three brick dwellings were know as Brookside, Elmridge and Shephards's Bush. Brookside was the south third of the 200 acres and was demolished in the 1950s. Elmridge was the middle farm and is designated under Bylaw 21419.

The "Shephard's Bush" farmhouse was stuccoed over many years ago when the bricks began spalling and appears to have been unoccupied for several years. Due to its current poor condition and the fact that an almost identical structure to the south remains as an excellent example of a Paterson family building, it was decided not to make any recommendation for listing the building at 2723 Kennedy Road.

Following the meeting, a search of the assessment rolls revealed that the abandoned property is owned by Harold Kwok with a mailing address of 12 Tottenham Rd. The committee suggests that the owner be contacted about its condition and that the Building Department ascertain if it meets minimum standards in order to remain.

BE IT RESOLVED

"That the 1850s Andrew Paterson farmhouse at 2723 Kennedy Road not be listed"

(Jim Karygiannis, *Bob Saunders*) Carried

5. **Adjournment**

S-170916 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, November 14th

Don Allen Carried