

MINUTES OF MEETING

Scarborough Community Heritage Preservation Panel
(Municipal Heritage Committee)

held at the Scarborough Archives
Tuesday, April 10th, 2018

Present: Rick Schofield Don Allen Matthew Gregor
 Patrick Wong Bob Saunders

Regrets Carole Whelan Sandy Grigg Jim Karygiannis

Absent: Joan Dolson

A quorum being present, the Chairman called the meeting to order.
There were no declared conflicts of interest.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

S-180401 "Be it resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved."

(Patrick Wong Bob Saunders) Carried

2.1 Chairman's Report on Pending Items: L'Amoreaux property

S-180402 The Chairman reported that the objections filed by the owners of 3315 Midland Avenue over the recommendation to designate the property known as a George L'Amoreaux house. Scarborough Council, at its meeting held April 4th, again deferred consideration of the recommendation, now to its June 6th, 2018 meeting.

ACTION: Scarborough Council

3.1 Communications: Lucas-Rotax Ltd, Scarborough Plant

S-180403 The Chairman reviewed a communication from Neville Britto recommending the listing on the Heritage Register of the small remaining building on Thermos Road which is the original part of the much larger plant which has been renovated to serve new commercial and business establishments.

The remaining free standing building is recommended for its heritage value as the site for the critical components of the CF-105 Avro Arrow and its Orenda PS-13 Iroquois jet engine programs. The small building at 75 Thermos housed the original engine components and fueling test labs and the steam power plant for the whole facility.

Recent tenants of the other parts of the plant have relocated and the site may be threatened with redevelopment in the near future. This is a rare opportunity to preserve a piece of Scarborough's Golden Mile and Canadian Aerospace history.

Several aerial views of the entire Lucas-Rotax plant exist in the Scarborough Archives collection and would be worth including in the possible recommendation to add the small remaining building to the Toronto Heritage Properties Register.

At the February committee meeting, committee members were asked to visit the site again and come forward with a recommendation at the April meeting. Following some discussion about the need to preserve some aspect of the Golden Mile of Industry, committee members though this was not the best property to recommend for preservation, despite its unique connection to the historic AVRO Arrow.

BE IT RESOLVED

"That the the Lucas-Rotax property not be recommended, at this time, for inclusion on the City's inventory of heritage properties."

(Bob Saunders, Don Allen) Carried

3.2 Communication: Proposed Demolition of Historic Bank in York

S-180404 The Committee Chair circulated newspaper and other materials regarding the proposal to demolish a heritage bank building on Roncesvalles Ave. and, while not in Scarborough, the final decision could affect other historic buildings such as the former Bank of Commerce building in Scarborough at 1660 Kingston Road (the NE corner of Kingston Road and Birch Cliff Ave), which also served as Scarborough Municipal Office from the 1920s until the 1940s. Also of concern would be the former Bank of Toronto building, also at 1448 Kingston Road (NE corner of Kingston Rd and Warden Ave) where new development is planned. Both these properties are on the Scarborough Committees' list of heritage properties but only the bank at 1660 has been added to the City's inventory, while we wait for staff to review the other site.

Since the York Twp property is not within the jurisdiction of the Scarborough Preservation Committee, no formal recommendation was made but the committee members agreed to watch the development outcome carefully.

3.3 Communications: Commemorative Naming to honour former Councillor Ron Moeser

S-180405 The Chairman reported a communication from the CCRA regarding the possibility of a public naming to honour former of Ward 44 Councillor, the late Ron Moeser.

There was discussion regarding naming and renaming of streets, parks and other municipal areas to recognize community members. The general thought was that parks should be named after prominent or historical citizens, geographic features or local communities such as Adams Park, David and Mary Thomson Park or Port Union Waterfront Park. Further, parks, once named, should not be changed unless there are special or unique reasons to delete the original name.

Regarding naming municipal properties areas as community centres, municipal areas etc, these should recognize prominent and long-standing heads of government such as Mel Lastman Square, Albert Campbell Square and Nathan Phillips Square.

All other memorial recognitions should be given to any other long-standing community person whether in government or not, should be considered for new street naming but not the replacement of existing, historic street names unless there is a unique reason to change such as a request by at least 75% of the residents of the street.

The committee thus decided that, in the case of Ward 44 former Councillor Ron Moeser, the most appropriate memorial recognition would be a new street within the Ward.

BE IT RESOLVED

“That the SCPP recommend that the new street under construction off Kingston Road, east of Morningside Avenue be named Ron Moeser street”

(Don Allen, Bob Saunders) Carried

3.4 Communications: Restoration of Exterior of St. Jude’s 1858 chapel

S-180406 The Chairman circulated a memo from Nicolas Castaneda regarding the need for some restoration work on the designated St. Judes 1848 chapel (Bylaw #17449). The Chairman agreed to meet with Mr. Castaneda at the site to ascertain what work is requested and/or required and report back to the committee at the next meeting.

Action: Chairman to report back at the next meeting

3.5 Communications : Regarding 32 Agincourt Drive

S-180407 Bob Saunders reported that the Lincoln family, owners of 32 Agincourt Drive, have put their property on the market for sale. The house was built in 1918 and thus is now a “century home”. It of of solid brick construction and both the exterior and the interiors have remained well preserved as original materials. Although 20 feet has been expropriated by Metrolinx, the property is still quite large and very desirable to developers wishing the build multifamily town-homes which would serious destroy the character of the historic village of Agincourt which is under review as a Heritage Conservation District.

BE IT RESOLVED:

“That the Lincoln family house at 32 Agincourt Drive be recommended for immediate inclusion on the City of Toronto’s Heritage Register and that Heritage Preservation staff be requested to prioritize this now threatened property.

(Bob Saunders, Matthew Gregor) Carried

3.6 Communications: Collins House at 14 Pickering Town Line

S-180408 The Chairman reported the former tenant, Joyce Scott, of this Ontario (TRCA) owned property had passed away and family descendants are interested in continued tenancy and were inquiring on the historic status of the property.

The Chairman reported that it was recommended for designation many years ago but would not qualify for municipal listing as the property was/is owned by the Ontario Government. The Chairman was uncertain as the its current ownership status but believes that it was now part of Parks Canada, formerly under TRAC.

As such, the committee made no further recommendation as it is out of the local municipal council control.

The Chairman has provided information about the property and its status to John Collver who made the initial inquiry. Hopefully he or another suitable tenant will move into the property and help maintain its historic character. It had been vacant in the past and parts of the interior damaged by fire.

3.7 Communication: Proposed Safety Changes around Christie's Cemetery

S-180409 The Chairman reported that City Parks superintendent Brian Chase had concerns regarding damaged chain fence and posts installed around part of the publicly accessible Christie's Memorial Cemetery at Sheppard and Warden Ave. The cemetery sits in the middle of a parking lot, property of the Bridlewood Mall. The chain fencing is now a public safety issue.

The Chairman reported that the massive fir trees south of the cemetery and the decorative chain fencing were added to the property after the stone wall holding the historic cemetery markers was designated and that the decorative chain fence was not part of the reasons for designation. As such, any repairs or removal of the modern, decorative chain fencing and support posts would not require permission from Council. However, no excavation below three feet is permitted for new posts until the property is carefully examined to be sure that no damage is made to the remaining graves which lie at least three feet below the current ground level.

BE IT RESOLVED

"That the City or the group responsible for maintenance of the property known as Christie's Memorial Cemetery, make the necessary repairs or removal of the damaged modern chain fencing and associated posts as long as no damage or changes are made to the few remaining upright monuments and the stone wall which form the reasons for the designation of the property.

(Bob Saunders, Don Allen) Carried

3.8 Communications: Ministry of Culture et al

S-180410 The Chairman circulated a letter from the Ministry granting permission for committee members to research property records, closed parcel registers, abstract index records, deeds etc. without payment of the usual search fees, subject to restrictions outlined in the letter dated March 26, 2018 from Dennis Blais, Director, Central Production and Verification Services.

4 New Business: Summer Site Tour- Visit

S-180411 The committee briefly discussed which area or sites would be appropriate for the annual site tour by committee members. It was suggested that the Kingston Road Plaza, built in 1922 might be considered. Also mentioned was the possibility of a tour of the remaining buildings at GECO.

Committee members will review the tour proposals and other possibilities and make a final decision at the next committee meeting.

(Mastthew Gregor, Bob Saunders) Carried

4. Adjournment

S-180411 The committee discussed options for the summer tour - site visit.

BE IT RESOLVED

“That the meeting be adjourned”

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 12th, 2018

Below: Designated Commerce Bank and construction of the Birch Cliff Plaza, c 1922



Below: aerial view of GECo Munitions Plant, 1950

