



**The Corporation of the Town of Essex**

**Essex Municipal Heritage Committee Meeting Minutes**

May 30, 2024, 5:00 pm

Harrow and Colchester South Community Centre, 243 McAfee Street

Present: Councillor - Matyi, Jason, Ward 3, Vice Chair  
Member - Baldwin, Jacqueline  
Member - Connie Clarkson  
Councillor - Hammond, Rodney, Ward 4  
Member - Kokovai, Richard  
Member - Kowtiuk, Laurie  
Member - Matyi Linda

Absent: Chair - Basden, Perry  
Member - Peters, Grant

Also Present: Rita Jabbour, Manager, Planning Services  
Ian Rawlings, Junior Planner  
Marsha Buchta, Recording Secretary  
Cheyenne Mailloux, Heritage and Planning Intern

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request. Please contact the Clerk's Office at [clerks@essex.ca](mailto:clerks@essex.ca) or 519-776-7336 extension 1100 or 1101.

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by the Vice-Chair Councillor Jason Matyi at 5:05 p.m.

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge that this land is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations (comprised of the Ojibway, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi Peoples), and of the Huron-Wendat Peoples. We value the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original Peoples of Turtle Island who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial.

**3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest noted at this time.

**4. Adoption of Published Agenda**

**4.1 Essex Municipal Heritage Committee Meeting Agenda for May 30, 2024**

**EMHC24-05-21**

Moved By Richard Kokovai

Seconded By Councillor Hammond

**That** the published agenda for the May 30, 2024 Essex Municipal Heritage Committee Meeting be adopted as presented.

**Carried**

**5. Adoption of Minutes**

**5.1 Essex Municipal Heritage Committee Minutes for April 25, 2024**

**EMHC24-05-22**

Moved By Jacqueline Baldwin

Seconded By Councillor Hammond

**That** the minutes of the Essex Municipal Heritage Committee meeting held April 25, 2024 be adopted as circulated.

**Carried**

**6. Unfinished Business**

**6.1 Greater Marketing and Public Education about Heritage - Ongoing**

**6.2 Official Plan Update - Ongoing**

**6.3 Heritage Grant Program - Ongoing**

6.3.1 Heritage Grant Update

No Heritage Grants have been received to date; however, per Staff Liaison, Rita Jabbour, these Grants are limited to listed or Designated properties. This may change with the addition of listed and designated properties.

**6.4 Heritage Designation and Interpretive Plaque Program - Ongoing**

6.4.1 Carnegie Library Plaque Unveiling

**EMHC24-05-23**

Moved By Councillor Hammond

Seconded By Laurie Kowtiuk

**That** an updated report on the significance of the building, be provided to the Essex Municipal Heritage Committee members to provide insight in determining a date to unveil the plaque.

**Carried**

**6.5 Listing and Designating Properties and Heritage Districts - Ongoing**

6.5.1 Update on the Essex Heritage Inventory

Ms. Jabbour provided an introduction of our Heritage & Planning Intern, Ms. Cheyenne Mailloux. Ms. Mailloux provided each Committee member with sections of Ontario Regulation 9/06 of the Ontario Heritage Act detailing the criteria utilized in determining the listing and designation process. Ms. Mailloux provided an overview of 14 of the 22-26 properties within Essex that meet a minimum of 2 criteria that are being recommended for designation to the EMHC Members. The Members will

be required to determine if they will make a motion of intention to Designate to Council.

**EMHC24-05-24**

Moved By Richard Kokovai

Seconded By Laurie Kowtiuk

Ms. Mailloux provided an overview of Christ Church, 190 Bagot Street, Colchester, detailing the 200-year-old history and 145-year-old church. It has connections to Rev. Richard Pollard, William McCormick and served as the first schoolhouse in Colchester until 1881. The site meets 3 criteria of Designation under the Ontario Heritage Act.

**That** the Committee recommend to Council that Christ's Church, 190 Bagot Street be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990.

**Carried**

**EMHC24-05-25**

Moved By Laurie Kowtiuk

Seconded By Councillor Hammond

Ms. Mailloux delivered a summary of Christ Church Cemetery at 0 Bagot Street, Colchester. It is a late 19th, early 20 century large scale Settler burial ground, housing original Christ Church remnants. The property is currently unlisted and meets three criteria for designation.

**That** the Committee recommend to Council that Christ Church Cemetery at 0 Bagot Street, Colchester, be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990.

**Carried**

**EMHC24-05-26**

Moved By Richard Kokovai

Seconded By Councillor Hammond

Ms. Mailloux provided an overview of Snider House, 179 County Road 50, Colchester. The house is a colonial style home from Loyalist architecture, built in 1813, with ties to John Snider, the United Empire Loyalists, the Battle of Lake Erie and has been continuously owned by one of the first settler families in the area. It is currently unlisted and meets 3 designation criteria.

**That** the Committee recommend to Council that Snider House, 179 County Road 50, Colchester, be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990.

**Carried**

**EMHC24-05-27**

Moved By Councillor Hammond

Seconded By Richard Kokovai

Ms. Mailloux reviewed information for St. Clement Church, 9567 Walker Road, McGregor. The Church was built in 1903 to accommodate the growing French-Catholic population of McGregor and the surrounding area. It houses many original features, including the bell, known as the Ava Maria. It meets 3 designation criteria.

**That** the Committee recommend to Council that St. Clement Church, 9567 Walker Road, McGregor be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990.

**Carried**

**EMHC24-05-28**

Moved By Richard Kokovai

Seconded By Laurie Kowtiuk

Ms. Mailloux provided an overview of Grace Baptist Church, 120 Talbot Street N, Essex. The Church was originally constructed in 1875 but closed in 1884 when the congregation amalgamated with the Grace Methodist Church. It housed the original Essex High School from 1885 until 1888 and was sold back to the Baptist community in 1888/89. It moved to its current location in 1907/8. It meets 2 of the designation criteria.

**That** the Committee recommend to Council that Grace Baptist Church, 120 Talbot Street N, Essex, be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990.

**Carried**

**EMHC24-05-29**

Moved By Richard Kokovai

Seconded By Linda Mayti

Ms. Mailloux provided a summary of the Essex United Church, 49 Talbot Street South, Essex. Built in 1908 to replace an earlier structure that was damaged during the 1907 Essex Rail Explosion. The church's congregation dated back to 1876 and was comprised of the congregations of the Grace Methodist and Methodist Episcopal Churches. The first service following the rebuilding was held on February 28, 1909. The pipe organ installed in 1927 by the Casavant Family of Quebec may also be a heritage feature. It meets 3 of the criteria for designation.

**That** the Committee recommend to Council that the Essex United Church, 49 Talbot Street South, Essex, be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990.

**Carried**

**EMHC24-05-30**

Moved By Connie Clarkson

Seconded By Richard Kokovai

Ms. Mailloux provided an overview of the Dr. Robert B. Potts House, 54 Talbot St. South. Essex. The house was constructed prior to 1885, surveys dated 1878. Dr. Potts worked in Essex from 1893/5-1897, serving on Council from 1895-1897. It meets 2 designation criteria.

**That** the Committee recommend to Council that Dr. Robert B. Potts House, 54 Talbot St. South. Essex. be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990.

**Carried**

**EMHC24-05-31**

Moved By Richard Kokovai

Seconded By Jacqueline Baldwin

Ms. Mailloux gave a summary of the Charles Roberts House, 138 Albert Street, Essex to Heritage members. The house is one of the oldest buildings remaining of 1876-77 development. It is an example of second empire architectural style, with connections to George Wilson, Alexander Cameron, Charles W, Roberts and Myron C "Tiny" Roberts. It meets 3 designation criteria.

**That** the Committee recommend to Council that Charles Roberts House, 138 Albert Street, Essex be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990.

**Carried**

**EMHC24-05-32**

Moved By Laurie Kowtiuk

Seconded By Councillor Hammond

Ms. Mailloux provided an overview of the A.M.E/New Canaan Cemetery, 0 County Road 12. It is currently an unlisted property. It is the only remaining part of the New Canaan Settlement –a historically Black settlement formed by individuals fleeing slavery via the Underground Railroad. It is the final resting place of Delos R. Davis – the First Underground Railroad/Freedom Seeker to become a lawyer and the First Black man to be placed on King’s Counsel. Showcases the areas connection to the Davis, Bulter, and Chavis families and the connection that Black families have had to one another since their settlement. In 1900, the community was comprised of 2 churches, cemetery, school, and small grocery store with a post office. In 1909, the population of New Canaan reached 60 people. It meets 3 designation criteria.

**That** the Committee recommend to Council that New Canaan Cemetery, 0 County Road 12, be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990.

**Carried**

**EMHC24-05-33**

Moved By Connie Clarkson

Seconded By Jacqueline Baldwin

Ms. Mailloux offered a summary of John McIntyre's Harness Shop, 103 King St. W Harrow. Built in 1896, it housed a hardware store, harness shop and library from 1899 until 1904. John McIntyre was a renowned 1890-1920 award winning harness maker, served many residents in Windsor and Essex County. It meets 2 designation criteria.

**That** the Committee recommend to Council that John McIntyre's Harness Shop, 103 King St. W Harrow be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990.

**Carried**

**EMHC24-05-34**

Moved By Richard Kokovai

Seconded By Laurie Kowtiuk

Ms. Mailloux provided an overview of Central Grove African Methodist Episcopal Church, 4005 County Road 11. Built in 1910-1911 by local Black families, utilizing the frame of the original Essex Methodist Church. The congregation was comprised of people from the surrounding communities of Harrow, Gilgal, New Canaan, and Pleasant Valley. Behind the church there is a historic Black cemetery with connections to prominent Black families dated back to the 1860s. It meets 4 of the designation criteria.

**That** the Committee recommend to Council that Central Grove African Methodist Episcopal Church, 4005 County Rd. 11 Harrow be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990.

**Carried**

**EMHC24-05-35**

Moved By Jacqueline Baldwin

Seconded By Connie Clarkson

The next property Ms. Mailloux reviewed was E.F. Darby's Drugstore, 11 King Street West Harrow. Built in the late 1880-90s, it housed the drugstore of E. F. Darby, first Mayor of Harrow. He lobbied the provincial government to pass a statue incorporating the Town of Harrow in 1930

and served as Mayor until 1935. Darby was the Town Druggist and Optometrist from 1890 until 1941, owning Darby's Drug Store for over 50 years, with his son, John W. Darby. The store would close in the 1970s, after over 75 years of operation. It meets 2 designation criteria.

**That** the Committee recommend to Council that E.F. Darby's Drugstore, 11 King Street West Harrow be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990.

**Carried**

**EMHC24-05-36**

Moved By Richard Kokovai

Seconded By Councillor Hammond

Ms. Mailloux delivered a summary of John McAfee's General Store, 3 King Street W. The General Store was constructed prior to 1883 by John McAfee, a civil engineer, who surveyed the area for the railway built by Hiram Walker in the 1880s. He also helped organize the first annual Harrow fair in 1878 It was the McAfee General Store and post office until 1888 when it was sold to C.I. Pastorious and became the Pastorious General Store until 1904. It was rented out, and later bought by J.H Madill, and became the Madill furniture store and funeral parlor. It meets 2 designation criteria.

**That** the Committee recommend to Council that John McAfee's General Store, 3 King Street W. Harrow be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990.

**Carried**

**EMHC24-05-37**

Moved By Councillor Hammond

Seconded By Richard Kokovai

**That** the Harrow News building also be included on the list for consideration as it sits between other properties being considered for designation. This would ensure the entire block is designated together.

**Carried**

**EMHC24-05-38**

Moved By Richard Kokovai

Seconded By Jacqueline Baldwin

The final property overviewed by Ms. Mailloux was the Harrow Municipal Building, 44 King Street East. Harrow. Built in 1939 it served as the community's municipal building until 1999, after which it became OPP headquarters for the Town of Essex. The building cost \$30,000 to build, and housed all municipal offices, a banquet hall, the library, the post

office, the hydro offices, and the Harrow Police. It meets 3 designation criteria.

**That** the Committee recommend to Council that the Harrow Municipal Building, 44 King Street East, Harrow be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990.

**Carried**

**6.6 Cemeteries - Ongoing**

6.6.1 Update on Cemeteries

Ms. Jabbour advised that the Clerk's Department, Intern is looking into the ownership of the cemeteries within the Town of Essex.

**6.7 Studies and Master Plans - Ongoing**

**6.8 Heritage Walking Tour and Digital Component - Ongoing**

**6.9 Cultural Master Plan - Ongoing**

**6.10 Historically Significant Name Registry - Ongoing**

**6.11 Cultural Heritage, Indigenous History - Ongoing**

**6.12 Barn Quilts - Ongoing**

6.12.1 Update on Barn Quilts

Ms. Jabbour advised that a Barn Quilt Guide is currently being created.

**7. Adjournment**

**EMHC24-05-39**

Moved By Councillor Hammond

Seconded By Jacqueline Baldwin

**That** the meeting be adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

**Carried**

**8. Future Meetings**

Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at the Colchester Community Centre, 100 Jackson Street.

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Chair

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Recording Secretary