



## **Essex Municipal Heritage Committee (EMHC)**

Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:00 PM

Location: Electronic Zoom Meeting

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request. Please contact the Planning Department at [essexplanning@essex.ca](mailto:essexplanning@essex.ca) or 519-776-7336 extension 1128

"The EMHC is the resource base for information and knowledge for Council, administration and the community on all matters of heritage"

### **1. Roll Call**

Present:	Laurie Brett, Chair
	Richard Kokovai, Vice Chair
	Phil Pocock
	Laurie Brett
	Richard Kokovai
	Laurie Kowtiuk
	Joseph Lucas
	Claudette Gauthier
Also Present:	Rita Jabbour, Staff Liaison
	Sarah Aubin, Recording Secretary
Regrets:	Councillor Steve Bjorkman
	Anthony Paniccia

### **2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

None.

### **3. Adoption of Published Agenda**

- a) That the published Agenda for Thursday September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 EMHC Regular Meeting be adopted

Moved by Laurie Kowtiuk

Seconded by Joe Lucas

**(EMHC-2020-09-18)** That the published agenda for the September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Regular EMHC meeting, be adopted as presented.

"Carried"

#### **4. Adoption of Minutes**

- a) That the Special Minutes from the Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 EMHC Special Meeting be adopted.

Moved by Laurie Kowtiuk

Seconded by Joe Lucas

**(EMHC 2020-09-19)** That the special minutes from the July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Special EMHC Meeting be adopted as circulated.

“Carried”

#### **5. Public Presentations**

None.

#### **6. Unfinished Business**

- a) Greater Marketing and Public Education about Heritage– Ongoing

Rita Jabbour, Staff Liaison, asks the members if they have any greater marketing and public education events that they are attending or know of within the community.

Laurie Brett, Chair, states that given the current COVID-19 circumstances all opportunities for greater marketing or public education have been cancelled or postponed.

Richard Kokovai states that he would like to be provided with copies of the Heritage tour brochures so that he may distribute them to the wineries within the Town. He notes that these locations are currently open.

Rita advises that she will prepare copies of the brochure for Richard.

- b) Cemeteries –ongoing

Rita advises the members that the project to designate cemeteries throughout the Town of Essex is still ongoing and that the Clerks department will be placing the item within their budget for 2021.

She states that the identification plaque at the McCormick Cemetery needs to be replaced. The cemetery is designated under the Ontario Heritage Act and therefore no alteration of the property is permitted if the alteration is likely to affect the heritage attributes unless consent is granted through Council who in turn must consult with their heritage committee.

The heritage attributes respecting the property include the:

- Original location of the cemetery
- Oldest headstone in the county
- Marble headstones
- Cement wall which protects the cemetery
- Burial place of UEL
- Burial place of a war of 1812 veteran and 1837-1838 rebellion

She advises that the plaque will not impact any of these attributes.

Laurie Brett asks if any members of the McCormick family are still United Empire Loyalists. She states that the family should have some input on the sign if possible. Rita advises that she will relay the committee's comments to the Clerk's division. She will try to contact the family members to discuss the sign revisions and provide them with the opportunity to provide their input.

c) Listing –ongoing

Rita advises she will send out listing information for the Ferris and Huffman cemetery as ownership is clear.

Laurie Brett advises her to move forward with sending the listing information to the owners of Ferris and Huffman cemetery.

Richard Kokovai states that Ferris Cemetery has no access to it and is in the middle of a field.

Rita advises that there are many cemeteries throughout the Town of Essex that do not have public access to them. She states that Ferris may have a public right of way however. She continues to state that research can be done to see if this is the case.

Richard states that he believes this should be done before listing the property.

She advises she will do more research and return to the committee with an update at the next meeting.

Rita advises the members that the protection of Heritage Village appears to be possible by way of either listing, designating or by registering a conservation easement through the Ontario Heritage Trust. . She advises that more clarification on ownership is required. She suggests that more research be completed on the conservation easement and ownership prior to approaching the board.

Richard Kokovai advises that he has contact with board members and states that he will provide the ownership information for the members and Rita at the next meeting.

d) Heritage Designation and Interpretive Plaque Program – ongoing

e) Reports to Council

f) Studies and Master Plans – on going

g) Friends of the Colchester Schoolhouse – Ongoing

h) Heritage Week 2021- ongoing

Rita advises that no theme or date for 2021 heritage week has been unveiled as of yet. She states that it is historically the third week in February and states that we should proceed as such. She states that the Ontario Heritage Trust does a Doors Open every year, but this year this event will be done digitally by offering virtual tours and online activities. She states that this could be one of the ways to proceed with heritage week. Sarah Aubin, Recording Secretary, advises that she has spoken with the Manager of Communications with regards to a virtual tour and states that it could be completed

for a few historical locations within the Town of Essex. She states she will provide the locations and a timeline to the committee at the next meeting.

She advises she will also contact the Public, Catholic and French school boards with regards to the heritage week colouring books and high school student submissions. She advises that given the current circumstances she has been reviewing different ways to have a heritage talk during heritage week.

The committee could contact historians within the Town and prepare a prerecorded video that can be accessible via YouTube during heritage week.

She notes that another idea is to invite heritage speakers such as Seamus Gunn and Elise Harding-Davis to participate in a virtual heritage talk during heritage week. This could also provide for more public participants. She will update the members at the next meeting if there are interested speakers.

Joe Lucas states that the Town has much history and states that he would like to see during heritage week administration place a call to the residents to provide their photographs, stories and any other item of historical information that can be shared with the public.

He states that this is a good way to reminisce about the past.

He continues to state that having an "open mic" night at the Heritage village or any of the Town facilities with regards to heritage might be something to be done during heritage week or for any other community activity.

Laurie Brett advises that administration can place both the heritage idea proposed by Joe Lucas and "open mic" night on their list of activities either during heritage week or during another community engagement activity.

Richard Kokovai states that he would like to see the committee prepare a 5 year plan with regards to items the committee would like to have completed during its term. He states that could be something the committee could prepare at a future meeting.

Rita advises that it would be the cultural master plan and states she will propose to have it within the budget for 2021.

i) Charles Maedel Commemoration Project –ongoing

Rita advises that the name change of the Essex Community Centre to Maedel Community Centre has been approved.

Laurie Brett, states that administration can possibly review a plaque for the location so that those who attend the community centre know why it was named Maedel Community centre.

Rita advises that she will review the budget and explore the possibility of a plaque unveiling in 2021.

j) Heritage Walking Tour and Digital Component

Rita presents materials to the Committee that was provided by the Manager of Communications with regards to a Heritage Walking Tour.

Richard Kokovai states that the committee could place a call out to the residents and ask if they have any photographs of the old town hall, post office, parks and other businesses that could be provided to the Town Hall digitally.

Laurie Brett, states that the town could put the photos where the “pins” would be and the residents could bring up the photos and see that a vacant lot once had a building with a thriving business. It would provide some further clarification on the local history.

- k) Batten Schoolhouse and Iler Schoolhouse - ongoing

## **7. Reports from Administration**

None.

## **8. Correspondence**

None.

## **9. New Business**

- a) COVID-19

Rita advises the members that COVID 19 has had a very large impact on heritage events and projects proposed for 2020. She states that due to gathering restrictions and staff resources, the Committee was not able to unveil any plaques in 2020, for example.

She states that heritage preservation efforts must continue even in light of a pandemic but may take on a different form.

- b) Heritage Summer Student

Rita advises that due to the COVID pandemic a summer student was not hired. She states that this also had an impact on conducting heritage projects because the student would have supported her in completing the projects..

- c) List of Historically Significant Names

Rita states that the committee previously requested to have a list made of historically significant names of those within the Town of Essex.

Laurie Brett states that the committee should ensure that there are rationale behind the specific person they are wanting to put forward for consideration for the list.

Rita advises that this item could be discussed at each meeting and encourages the committee to do some research on those they think should merit from future recognition.

## **10. Notices of Motion**

## **11. Adjournment**

Moved by Joe Lucas

Seconded by Laurie Kowtiuk

**(EMHC-2020-09-20)** That the meeting be adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

**Next Meeting Date** October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 5:00 pm Location: TBD

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Chair

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Recording Secretary