



The Corporation of the Town of Essex

Essex Municipal Heritage Committee Meeting Minutes

January 30, 2025, 5:00 pm

Harrow and Colchester South Community Centre, 243 McAfee Street

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

Absent: Grant Peters - Committee Member

Also Present: Rita Jabbour, Staff Liaison, Manager, Planning Services
Cheyenne Mailloux, Heritage and Planning Intern
Marsha Buchta, Recording Secretary

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

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Member Linda Matyi arrived at 5:08 p.m.
Councillor Jason Matyi arrived at 5:22 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 conflicts of interest noted at this time.

4. Adoption of Published Agenda

4.1 Essex Municipal Heritage Committee Meeting Agenda for January 30, 2025

EMHC25-01-01

Moved By Perry Basden

Seconded By Connie Clarkson - Chair

That the published agenda for the January 30, 2025, Essex Municipal Heritage Committee Meeting be adopted as presented.

Carried

5. Adoption of Minutes

5.1 Essex Municipal Heritage Committee Minutes for November 14, 2024

EMHC25-01-02

Moved By Councillor Hammond

Seconded By Richard Kokovai - Vice-Chair

That the minutes of the Essex Municipal Heritage Committee meeting held November 14, 2024 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

6. New Business

6.1 Election of Chair 2025 Committee Season

EMHC25-01-03

Moved By Perry Basden

Seconded By Richard Kokovai - Vice-Chair

That Connie Clarkson be the Chair of the Essex Municipal Heritage Committee for the 2025 Committee Season.

Carried

6.2 Election of Vice-Chair 2025 Committee Season

EMHC25-01-04

Moved By Connie Clarkson - Chair

Seconded By Perry Basden

That Richard Kokovai be the Vice Chair of the Essex Municipal Heritage Committee for the 2025 Committee Season.

7. Unfinished Business

EMHC25-01-05

Moved By Perry Basden

Seconded By Laurie Kowtiuk

That all the items listed in Agenda Item 7 Unfinished Business be received.

Carried

7.1 Greater Marketing and Public Education about Heritage - Ongoing

7.2 Official Plan Update - Ongoing

Ms. Jabbour advised the Town is working on Phase 2 of the Official Plan to revise the policies, including cultural heritage and are looking for feedback from residents.

7.3 Heritage Grant Program

7.3.1 Update on the Heritage Property Tax Grant

Ms. Cheyenne Mailloux met with the Finance Department to determine the feasibility of a property tax grant. Ms. Jabbour would like to get input from Heritage property owners and will do so during Heritage Week activities.

7.4 Heritage Designation and Interpretive Plaque Program - Ongoing

7.4.1 Update on the Snider House Plaque - 179 County Road 50 West

Ms. Jabbour advised the plaque has been ordered. It will be ready in March and will be unveiled in the Spring.

7.5 Listing and Designating Properties and Heritage Districts - Ongoing

7.5.1 Update on Rio Theatre - 10 Talbot Street South

Vice-Chair Kokovai was unable to find any information on the Rio Theatre. We will keep this item on the agenda to allow more time to search the history.

7.5.2 Update on 136 County Road 50 West

Member Baldwin provided a lot of information. We will keep the item on the agenda to allow further time to review.

7.5.3 Essex Railway Station, 87 Station Street, Essex Centre (Ward 1)

Ms. Cheyenne Mailloux discovered that on December 31, 2003, as a result of amalgamation all Heritage Property Designation by-laws were rescinded. As a result, the Essex Train station is not in fact designated. Ms. Mailloux provided an overview of the history, emphasizing its survival of two explosions and its historical and contextual value. It is a historical landmark of Essex.

EMHC25-01-06

Moved By Laurie Kowtiuk

Seconded By Councillor Hammond

That the Heritage Committee recommend to Council that the Essex Railway Station, located at 87 Station Street in Essex Centre Ward 1 be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990

Carried

7.5.4 Carnegie Library - ECHRS Building - 18 Gordon Avenue, Essex Centre (Ward 1)

It was discovered that the Carnegie Library property was also not designated.

EMHC25-01-07

Moved By Councillor Hammond

Seconded By Richard Kokovai - Vice-Chair

That the Heritage Committee recommend to Council that the Carnegie Library located at 18 Gordon Avenue in Essex Centre Ward 1 be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990.

Carried

7.6 Cemeteries - Ongoing

7.6.1 Update on Right of Way purchase of Ferriss Cemetery

No updates at this time. Item to remain open on agenda to allow administration more time to pursue with the Clerks department.

7.7 Studies and Master Plans - Ongoing

7.8 Heritage Walking Tour and Digital Component - Ongoing

7.8.1 Jane's Walk

Ms. Mailloux provided a brief summary of the events and dates available for a Jane's walk. The Ontario Architectural Society is looking for numbers of groups that are interested in hosting a Jane's walk. Heritage Colchester, HEIRS, John R. Park Homestead and the Train Station have already replied with their interest. Administration is looking to the Committee to provide feedback as to their interest. The dates for the walk would be sometime between April 25-27, 2025.

EMHC25-01-07

Moved By Councillor Hammond

Seconded By Richard Kokovai - Vice-Chair

That the Heritage Committee recommend to Council that the Town of Essex participate in the Jane's walk.

Carried

7.9 Cultural Master Plan - Ongoing

7.10 Historically Significant Name Registry - Ongoing

7.11 Cultural Heritage, Indigenous History - Ongoing

Councillor Hammond advised there is an online Anishinaabemowin Ojibwe language course that consists of 8 classes provided for \$160 from April - May by the outdoor learning school & store. For more information, please visit: <https://outdoorlearning.com/event/anishinaabemowin-language-course/>

7.12 Barn Quilts - Ongoing

7.12.1 Update on sponsorship of barn quilt competition.

Member Kokovai contacted some of the local businesses, but they were not interested in sponsoring a barn quilt competition.

7.13 Heritage Week - Ongoing

7.13.1 Update on Theme

Ms. Jabbour notified the Committee of the theme for the 2025 Heritage Week, "Perceptions of the Past," which focuses on the future of Heritage and cultural planning in the Town of Essex for the next 25-30 years.

7.13.2 Update on Proposed Events / Activities

- Colouring books have been created in English and French and will be distributed to JK to Grade 5 students throughout all schools located in the Town of Essex, including Harrow, McGregor and Gesto.
- Geoguessr - Game created to guess what properties you are at within the Town of Essex. - Cheyenne to provide members with a list of the properties that are included.
- Monday, February 17, Family Day, Ms. Mailloux and Ms. Jabbour will be hosting a Public Open House from 11:00am - 1:00pm at the Canadian Transportation Museum and Heritage Village. Residents are encouraged to review and provide input on the Town's Indigenous consultation efforts, Cultural Heritage and Archaeology policies and Cultural Character Areas in the New Official Plan, and existing Heritage Programs including the Heritage Grant, Heritage Plaque, and Heritage Farm Sign Program, and learn about new heritage programs planned for the future.
- Various organizations are hosting events throughout the Town of Essex. The Committee should visit the Town of Essex website / Heritage week for the most up to date information.
- Various Facebook posts and news releases will also be done to promote the activities.
- Tuesday February 18 at 6:00pm, Town of Essex Council will congratulate winners of the 2025 Youth and Community Heritage Awards.
- Wednesday February 19, John R Park Homestead, from 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm the Town will be hosting a meeting with members of the local heritage organizations to obtain feedback on their long-term plans, needs, and potential municipal supports.
- Thursday February 20, the Town is hosting an Open House from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the John R. Park Homestead for all owners of designated and listed heritage properties and members of the general public who are interested in the designation process, to showcase the resources available through the Heritage Grant and Plaque program, obtain feedback on existing and planned programs, and discuss potential municipal supports.
- Heritage Bursary open until March 21, 2025 - \$500 to Essex Youth to finance both undergraduates and post-graduates in the following fields: History, Archaeology, Archives and Records Management and Heritage Resources Management and courses that contribute to the preservation and promotion of local heritage.

- Heritage Week Quiz - Heritage themed posts on the Town's Facebook page testing local historical knowledge and enter to win a copy of Edward Milo Johnson's book, New Canaan: Freedom - Land or a copy of Laurie Brett's book, The Rising Village: An Early History of Essex, Ontario.

8. Adjournment

EMHC25-01-08

Moved By Perry Basden

Seconded By Linda Mayti

That the meeting be adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Carried

9. Future Meetings

Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall, Council Chambers, 33 Talbot Street South, Essex, ON.

Chair

Recording Secretary