



Heritage Stratford Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Heritage Stratford Advisory Committee (HS) was held on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., electronically.

Committee Members Present: Brian Johnson, Barb Cottle, Jeff Atchison, Jacob Vankooten, Andy Bicanic, Councillor Larry McCabe

Staff Present: Jonathan DeWeerd – Chief Building Official, Miranda Ivany – Planner, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Also Present: Loreena McKennitt – Falstaff Centre, Errol Fischer – Falstaff Centre

Regrets: Jack West, Laura Dent

1. Call to Order

Brian Johnson, Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and The General Nature Thereof

Name, Item and General Nature of Pecuniary Interest

Councillor McCabe declared a pecuniary interest on Item 4, "Sign By-law Exemption Request for 35 Waterloo Street", as his spouse's theatre company is mentioned in the presentation.

3. Introduction of New Members

Brian Johnson welcomed new members Andy Bicanic and Councillor Larry McCabe to the Heritage Stratford Advisory Committee and introduced all the members and staff.

4. Delegation: Sign By-law Exemption Request for 35 Waterloo Street – Loreena McKennitt

Ms. McKennitt, owner of the Falstaff Centre located at 35 Waterloo Street, presented to the Committee a proposal to hang five various sizes of "change

copy" signs on the fences at the corner of William/Waterloo Street, along Waterloo Street, and the corner of Elizabeth/Waterloo Street. The signs would be changeable depending on the activity taking place. At times, the signs may not be used. The owners have delivered 80 letters to their surrounding neighbours to inform them of their request and allow them to submit feedback with any concerns. They have worked with City staff to make adjustments and ensure that visibility was not an issue.

5. Delegation: Sign By-law Exemption Report for 35 Waterloo Street – Jonathan DeWeerd, Chief Building Official – City of Stratford

Jonathan DeWeerd, Chief Building Official (CBO) explained the Management Report staff has prepared for the Sign By-law exemption for 35 Waterloo Street. Staff is requesting input from Heritage Stratford on the request to erect the five ground signs. The variance would be to allow the five signs in a residential area. Currently, there is only one ground sign permitted in this zone. The owners had previously applied for an exemption in 2022, however Heritage Stratford indicated at that time that they had concerns with the number of signs being requested. The CBO stated that staff is currently not in support of the exemptions, as the signs do not adhere to the Sign By-law and these signs would be located on City property and require an encroachment agreement. Exceptions could influence future applications and are not in compliance with the Sign By-law but are collaborating with the applicant to bring the application through.

Brian Johnson inquired if the site plan submitted was to increase the previously recommended three signs from Heritage Stratford up to five signs. The CBO stated that the current application is back to the original request for five additional signs, plus the existing wooden ground sign that is currently located on the corner of William and Waterloo Streets.

Brian Johnson noted that the documents state that any sign measuring over 1.6 meters in height would be required to be approved and signed by an engineer. He inquired if they would be open to reducing the size of the two signs that would be required to be approved by an engineer. If they would change from a Type B sign to a Type C sign, they would not need to be approved by a professional engineer. Ms. McKennitt stated they would be open to reducing the sizes.

Errol Fischer now present at the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Brian Johnson noted that on the site plan drawings, there are six signs plus the existing ground sign. He inquired if this is correct. Errol Fischer clarified that they are requesting five additional signs. The original application did identify two taller Type C signs at Elizabeth and Waterloo Streets, however, were removed as they were deemed to be in the sight triangle. They are now requesting two Type C signs and three Type A signs. With these sizes, no engineering approval would

be required. Mr. Fischer noted that they have had an engineer review all the signs regardless of their size to ensure the signs are safe and properly constructed.

Andy Bicanic stated that the elevation difference from the fence to the building is significant enough, that it does not take away from the heritage significance of the building. He also stated that the owners have taken steps to ensure that the signs are not interfering with sight lines. He noted that it was a positive step that the owners did not receive any opposition letters from the neighbours regarding any of the signs. The main factor in the request is setting a precedence on the number and size of signs to be permitted.

Barb Cottle inquired if the owners would be open again to a reduction in the number of signs they are requesting. Ms. McKennitt stated they would be open to compromise on the number of signs.

Motion by Andy Bicanic

Seconded by Jacob Vankooten

THAT the Heritage Stratford Advisory Committee recommends Stratford City Council support the granting of an exemption from the Sign By-law 159-2004 at 35 Waterloo Street to allow for a total of four (4) change copy signs on the surrounding fence as follows:

- **one (1) sign located on Elizabeth Street next to the beveled corner (Type C design),**
 - **one (1) sign located on Waterloo Street next to the beveled corner at Elizabeth Street (Type A design), and**
 - **two (2) signs located on the beveled corner of William and Waterloo Street (one a Type A design and one a Type C design).**
- Carried**

6. Election of the 2023 Chair and Vice-Chair

Staff declared nominations open for the 2023 Chair of the Heritage Stratford Advisory Committee.

- Brian Johnson nominated Jacob Vankooten
- Andy Bicanic nominated Brian Johnson

Staff asked if there were any further nominations. No further nominations were made.

Motion by Andy Bicanic
Seconded by Barb Cottle

THAT the nominations for the 2023 Heritage Stratford Advisory Committee Chair be closed. Carried

Jacob Vankooten indicated that he would allow his nomination to stand.
Brian Johnson indicated that he would allow his nomination to stand.

Motion by Andy Bicanic
Seconded by Jeff Atchison

THAT Brian Johnson be elected as the 2023 Chair of the Heritage Stratford Advisory Committee. Carried

Staff declared nominations for the 2023 Vice-Chair of the Heritage Stratford Advisory Committee open.

- Brian Johnson nominated Jacob Vankooten

Staff asked if there were any further nominations. No further nominations were made.

Motion by Barb Cottle
Seconded by Councillor McCabe

THAT nominations for the 2023 Heritage Stratford Advisory Committee Vice-Chair be closed. Carried

Jacob Vankooten indicated that he would allow his name to stand.

Motion by Andy Bicanic
Seconded by Barb Cottle

THAT Jacob Vankooten be elected as the 2023 Vice-Chair of the Heritage Stratford Advisory Committee. Carried

7. Adoption of Previous Minutes

There were no minutes to be considered at the February 14, 2023 meeting. The September 13, 2022, minutes will be listed on the March 14, 2023, Heritage Stratford agenda for consideration.

8. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

8.1 Destination Stratford Audio Tours – Barb Cottle/Brian Johnson

Barb Cottle advised she has completed the write-ups for each of the properties. The Committee will revisit this project at a later date to edit the write-ups and plan for next steps.

8.2 Community Partners & Projects

No new updates.

8.3 Update on former Perth County Registry Office – Miranda Ivany

No new updates to report. The County is exploring options for the building.

8.4 Update on 265 St. David Street Permit – Miranda Ivany

The Planner advised staff have been in contact with the City's Solicitor and are reviewing paths forward for the permit. Upon review of the Council resolution relating to this matter, it appears that they have met that resolution, however they did not follow the proper process and it is anticipated a report will be brought to Council in the coming months.

9. Designation Sub-Committee Update

9.1 Update on Non-Designated Properties Register – Miranda Ivany

The Planner reported that staff is in the process of reviewing the changes made to the Ontario Heritage Act by Bill 23 to determine a path forward. It is anticipated that the properties that were recommended in the 2nd and 3rd phase of the project, will require additional review to determine if they meet the increased threshold to list them on the register. It is further anticipated that additional communication and mail-outs will be required for the affected property owners. The changes require that properties listed on the register must be designated by the City within three years.

10. Development Services Report

Miranda Ivany, Planner, submitted the February 2023 Development Services Report for the Committee's information.

11. New Business

11.1 2022 James Anderson Award and 2023 Blue Plaque Awards

The Committee will be advertising for the annual James Anderson Award to collect nominations.

Motion by Andy Bicanic
Seconded by Jacob Vankooten

THAT the Heritage Stratford Advisory Committee advertises for nominations for the annual James Anderson award with a deadline date of March 31, 2023 for submissions. Carried

The Committee will be advertising for the annual Blue Plaque Awards to collect nominations for this year's recipients.

Motion by Barb Cottle

Seconded by Andy Bicanic

THAT the Heritage Stratford Advisory Committee advertises for nominations for the annual Blue Plaque awards with a deadline date of March 31, 2023 for submissions. Carried

11.2 Shakespearean Gardens – Heritage Designation Possibilities

Brian Johnson reported that the Friends of the Shakespearean Gardens have contacted him to inquire if there is a way that they can protect the gardens, possibly by designating them under the Ontario Heritage Act. The Shakespearean Gardens are included in Stratford's Heritage Conservation District. Heritage protection for the gardens may already be achieved by being located within the HCD. It was noted this matter requires further discussion at the next meeting.

11.3 Updated Members for Sub-Committees

Permit Review & Heritage Sign Review Sub-Committee: Brian Johnson, Jacob Vankooten, Jeff Atchison

Further discussion at the March meeting to fill the remaining positions on all three sub-committees.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Heritage Stratford will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., in the Mansbridge Room at the Stratford Rotary Complex.

13. Adjournment

Motion by Jacob Vankooten

Seconded by Councillor McCabe

THAT the February 14, 2023 Heritage Stratford Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Start Time: 7:07 P.M.

End Time: 8:29 P.M.