

Roles of Advisory Committees

Heritage Stratford

Heritage Stratford is the City's Municipal Heritage Committee under the Ontario Heritage Act. Heritage Stratford was originally created in 1981 as a Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee through By-Law 70-81. The Committee was then amended in 2004 through By-Law 133-2004. Heritage Stratford has a Statutory Role and a Non-Statutory Role to fulfill in Stratford.

Statutory Role: (under the Ontario Heritage Act)

Heritage Stratford advises Council on the following issues regarding Heritage properties:

- Designations, or Repeals, Amendments or Alterations of Designations;
- Demolition;
- Easements or Covenants;
- Establishment of Heritage Conservation Districts.

Further, on receipt by the Development Services Division any applications for demolition, building or sign variance permits relating to Part IV and/or Part V heritage buildings, Heritage Stratford shall be notified immediately in order to review the application and contact the owner of the subject property to offer advice and assistance. Results of this review and contact shall be conveyed back to the Development Services Division within 5 working days.

Heritage Stratford provides advice on Heritage Impact Assessments where these are required under the Stratford Official Plan or other Planning legislation.

By-Law 133-04 charges Heritage Stratford with preparation of a building inventory.

Non-Statutory Role:

Heritage Stratford also assists in creating an informed environment that supports and enhances the preservation of a historical community through:

- Advocacy and promotion for Heritage Conservation;
- Education;
- Long Term planning;
- Management of the James Anderson Awards and the Blue Plaque program.

Accessibility Advisory Committee

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) sets out the process for developing, implementing and enforcing accessibility standards. The AODA requires

all municipalities of 10,000 or more residents to have an accessibility advisory committee, with the majority of members being persons with disabilities.

The three main activities of an accessibility advisory committee are to:

1. Advise municipal council about:
 - the requirements and implementation of accessibility standards;
 - the preparation of accessibility reports;
 - other matters for which the council may seek its advice
2. Review site plans and drawings described in section 41 of the Planning Act that the committee selects.

Perform all other functions that are specified in the regulations.

The Committee of Adjustment is a quasi-judicial tribunal appointed by City Council and is independent and autonomous from City Council and City Administration. It derives its jurisdiction from the Planning Act of Ontario.

Mandate:

- To hear and make decisions on Applications for "Minor Variances" - where a requirement of a Zoning By-law cannot be met (under Section 45 of the Planning Act). This includes applications which deal with the enlargement or extension of a building or structure that is legally non-conforming or for a change in conforming use.
- To hear and make decisions on Applications for Consent to "sever" a property or for any agreement, mortgage or lease that extends for 21 years or more (under Section 53 of the Planning Act).