

LOCAL HERITAGE MARKERS COMMITTEE

MAY 18, 2016

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The Local Heritage Committee held its meeting on Wednesday May 18, 2016 in the Town of Minto Council Chambers. Committee members present for the meeting were Marc Mackenzie representing the Harriston Heritage Association, June Macdonald representing the Minto Heritage Association, Meghan Raftis on behalf of the Cultural Roundtable, and Bob McEachern representing the Palmerston Railway Heritage Museum. Members of staff present at the meeting were Business and Economic Development Manager Belinda Wick-Graham and Economic Development Assistant Taylor Pridham.

Business and Economic Development Manager Wick-Graham stated that the goal was to assemble something to present to the Cultural Roundtable at their upcoming meeting on June 14, 2016. She mentioned how house plaques have blossomed in Minto but financially there needs to be more help to do more.

Wick-Graham provided the committee with a package highlighting how by developing a local heritage program, it would help with applications and consent forms. She proceeded to read through the package which highlighted topics such as: local markers, planning the project, researching the topic, selecting a location, writing the text, credit lines, manufacturing and installation, as well as unveiling the marker. She also noted that Macdonald and Mackenzie would be valuable assets in terms of gathering research regarding the history of building.

Wick-Graham noted that text and credit lines would appear on the Treasures of Minto website, as many already do. She then made the committee aware of an application form that Marc drafted based on the previous application with some modifications. The committee compared Mackenzie's application to the Heritage Toronto Plaques and Markers Program. Committee members all agreed that the following be included in the application: plaque location, anniversaries and celebrations, outside access to public, and a 250 word paper explaining the subject matter. The committee agreed that a draft of the 150 words of proposed plaque text would not be needed. Mackenzie shared that he believes cast aluminum would be the cheapest and best value.

The committee then read through the Heritage Toronto Plaques and Markers Program package. Committee members all agreed that it could be a joint venture between the owner of a house or historical site, and the Cultural Roundtable. The committee then agreed that they would go on a case by case basis when it came to deciding the difference between something that is significant and something that is historical. Rafts mentioned that within the Heritage Toronto Plaques and Markers Program package, it was noted that celebrations and anniversaries of building are taken into account.

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The committee discussed including a town logo on future plaques and all were in favour. Wick-Graham noted that they could tie it into the Treasures of Minto website and that she would discuss this idea with the Town of Minto's designer. She also raised a concern that the price of the plaques could sound very steep to individuals and that they should look into other options. Wick-Graham mentioned that if plaques cost \$750, homeowners could cover \$500 then the committee could cover the other \$250. Mackenzie said that he would research pricing that could potentially be more cost effective. He also mentioned that he would like the plaques to show consistency across the towns within Minto. Raftis mentioned that the committee should still contribute in topping up the funding even if there is a third party involved in order to manage some control over the consistency of the plaques. All committee members agreed with this motion. Wick-Graham also noted that this committee would serve as a sub-committee of the Cultural Roundtable and would be responsible for meeting up to review forms as the experts. Macdonald stated that she would like to see council discuss how they feel about the importance of heritage and that they would show their support.

Wick-Graham wrapped up the meeting with committees in agreement to meet to review applications as they come in. She noted that she would draft a terms of referenced for what the committee will look like and what it will strive to accomplish. She also noted that a budget request and a draft of an application should be done by June 14th for the next Cultural Roundtable meeting. Mackenzie reminded the committee that he would look into plaque pricing.

Wick-Graham wrapped up the meeting listing that the committee would discuss funding, prices and how much the committee would be willing to pay for the plaques the following weekend.

Next Meeting:
Wednesday June 1st, 2016
4:00 pm
Council Chambers

Taylor Pridham
Economic Development Assistant