



Cultural Roundtable Committee Minutes

Monday, November 25, 2024

7:00 p.m.

LaunchIt Minto

Attendance: Chair Peggy Raftis, Caitlin Hall, Rosie Krul, Councillor Ed Podniewicz, Deputy-Mayor Jean Anderson, Jennifer Frayne, Megan Raftis, Mary Jean Hartwig and Raissa Rogers.

Staff Present: Belinda Wick-Graham, Director of Economic & Community Development, Erin Raftis, Marketing and Community Development Coordinator, Gordon Duff, Treasurer.

Regrets: Amy Sjaarda

1. **Call to Order at 7:01 p.m. by Chair Peggy Raftis**
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**
 - a. Minutes from the October 21, 2024, Cultural Roundtable Meeting

MOTION

Moved by: Megan Raftis Seconded by: Rosie Krul

THAT the Cultural Roundtable approve the minutes of the October 21st, 2024, meeting.

CARRIED

3. **Updates, Reports and Minutes for Approval**

- a. Minto Pride Update

Caitlin Hall reported that Minto Pride held two social events in November, which were medium-well attended, but allowed for more intimate socializing between attendees and attracted a few new faces. Rosie Krul added that they are busy planning and preparing for the 2025 events.

- b. Minutes from the November 5, 2024, Minto Farmers' Market Meeting

Belinda Wick-Graham shared that, in alignment with our Cultural Plan and inclusion of agriculture/local food, the Minto Farmers' Market Committee will now report to the Cultural

Roundtable. Erin Raftis provided highlights of the November 5, 2024, Minto Farmers' Market meeting, which is attached as Schedule "A". Erin Raftis reported that the group meets twice a year (before and after the season) to plan. She shared that the Market hired a student who was a big help at weekly markets. The student also vastly improved the tracking of attendance and success of events. Raftis noted that the committee is interested in collaborating with the high school students (possibly the comm-tech class) to create promotional videos for the Farmers' Market to share through the season. Jennifer Frayne recommended trying to work on projects such as these in April or May. Raftis added that there is a new change to the Public Health rule to be a "true Farmers' Market" where artisans and non-producers count against the ratio (where you need 50% + 1 primary producers to be an exempt market). She notes how this may impact the variety of vendors allowed at weekly markets. Finally, she shared that she is seeking bakers to sell at weekly markets.

MOTION

Moved by: Raissa Rogers Seconded by: Jennifer Frayne

THAT the Cultural Roundtable approve the minutes of the November 5, 2024, Minto Farmers' Market Committee meeting.

CARRIED.

4. Roundtable Discussion

a. Culture Days Recap

The Culture Days recap was postponed until January, to allow time for the working group to meet and review.

b. Saugeen Culture Bus Tour Recap

Wick-Graham updated the Committee on the success of the Culture Bus Tour, which was a collaboration between Wellington North, Hanover, and Minto, and supported by the Government of Canada's Tourism Growth Grant. The planning had a tight turnaround but sold out in all three communities. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with those agreeing the length and quality of tour was just right, interesting, and informative. Chair Raftis added that the Grey-Wellington Theatre Guild enjoyed participating as a stop on the tour. A copy of the participant survey is attached as Schedule "B".

c. 2025 Priorities and Budget Allocations

The Committee participated in a budget allocation and planning activity. Please see attached as Schedule C.

d. 2025 Proposed Meeting Dates

The Committee will meet 6 times a year on the 4th Monday of the month (January, March, May, July (tentative), September, and November).

5. Roundtable Update

Jennifer Frayne shared that the All Aboard Palmerston Committee decorated downtown for the holidays. She noted the Remembrance Day Poppy Project was another success, with the help of Paul Brown and the Palmerston Lions Club. She also shared that Norwell is creating holiday hampers.

Gordon Duff reported that the Minto Arts Council's Silent Auction Fundraising is currently open online and in-person. The 2025 Gallery calendar is almost complete. He updated that the Film Fest has had record breaking attendance with over 130 people at the most recent showing. Finally, he shared that the SPARC Committee is preparing for the 2026 symposium and continuing to seek funding.

Rosie Krul updated that the Harriston Library will be hosting "Evergreen Decorations" workshops in collaboration with the Harriston Horticultural Society on November 29th for kids and November 30th for Adults. The libraries are busy with programming including fireside stories, painting, card making workshops, etc. Krul added that Minto Pride will be at the Clifford Christmas in the Street event on November 30th to collect donations and educate the public about the Community Pantry.

Caitlin Hall added that Reroot's Winter Solstice event is on December 15th from 2pm - 5pm. She thanked the Committee for the wonderful experience with the Cultural Roundtable as she steps down to focus on Minto's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

Councillor Ed Podniewicz reported that Light up the Park had record breaking attendance. He also noted that the Kris Kringle Market was well attended too.

Raissa Rogers shared that the showing of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" was well attended with over 75 people. It was good weather and the best Harriston Santa Claus parade in years. Rogers added that ice cream season is almost ending.

Mary Jean Hartwig promoted that the Harriston Legion also has a Silent Auction fundraiser from November - December. She added that the Veterans Walk, hosted by the Harriston Historical Society, was a success with over 35 people in attendance. Four graves were visited to share history on local soldiers in World War 2. It was hosted by new member, Madison Dicks, who was also recently a summer student at the Palmerston Railway Heritage Museum.

Megan Raftis encouraged members of the Committee to attend "Anne of Green Gables, the Musical" which runs for the next two weekends.

Erin Raftis noted that the Town of Minto is almost through holiday event season, with four successful events completed. She promoted the next two events, Clifford Christmas in the Street on November 30th and Fire and Ice (which is now a PRE-NYE party) on December 29th. Finally, she shared that the Minto's Magical Holiday Towns campaign is underway. Everyone is encouraged to shop local between now and December 15th to enter to win a \$100 gift

card through the Business Passport contest. More info can be found on town.minto.on.ca/visitors. She shared that the funding for the Bright Lights & Festive Nights project has led to 5 beautiful additions of lights to the Palmerston Lions Park and thanked the Palmerston Lions for all their work to install and create the light trail.

Deputy Mayor Jean Anderson shared that the Horticultural Society will be having an Urn-making demonstration on Tuesday, November 26th and the AGM and mini-flower show is on November 27th. She encouraged anyone interested to join the Horticultural Society Board. She also updated on the Clifford Horticultural Society, noting that if they don't have additional members step up on November 29th at their meeting, the club will fold and interested members will join the Harriston group. Finally, she shared that their annual Christmas Dinner will be on December 25th in Harriston (due to Arena availability and logistics). She encourages everyone to help bring meals to those in need to help with logistics of the day. The pick-up for meals is 11:30-12:30 and sit-down meal is at 1pm.

Wick-Graham added that Caitlyn Turton is leaving her position as Business Development Coordinator for a position at Centre Wellington. Interviews for her replacement are on November 26th and the new person will not start until January. She encouraged those interested to attend our Harriston Rising Ideas session on December 4th, which will be brainstorming projects to be ready when funding is released in the new year.

Peggy Raftis encouraged those to attend "Anne of Green Gables, the Musical". She also updated on Halloween Haunt, which was a huge success with over 350 kids in attendance. Erin Raftis added that Hometown Christmas had over 75 in attendance and was a fun way to celebrate the holiday season.

6. Adjournment at 8:42 p.m.

Next meeting in January 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at Launchit.