



Essex Municipal Heritage Committee (EMHC)

Regular Meeting Minutes

Harrow Community Centre, 243 McAfee Street, Harrow, Community Room

Thursday, October 24th, 2019 - 5:00 PM

"The EMHC is the resource base for information and knowledge for Council, administration and the community on all matters of heritage"

1. Roll Call

Present:	Phil Pocock, Vice Chair
	Laurie Kowtiuk
	Laurie Brett
	Joseph Lucas
	Richard Kokovai
	Claudette Gauthier
Also Present:	Rita Jabbour, Staff Liaison
	Sarah Aubin, Recording Secretary
Regrets:	Megan Meloche
	Councillor Steve Bjorkman, Chair
	Anthony Paniccia

Announcements

Rita Jabbour regrettably informs the committee of the passing of Committee Member Megan Meloche prior to the start of the meeting.

She states:

"This is not an announcement I ever thought I would need to make, especially for someone so young. Megan was only 31 years old.

Megan has been a member of our Committee since 2016 and was last in attendance at our meeting in June 2019, so most members should be familiar with who Megan was; some Committee members are here as a result of Megan. I personally cannot express how much of an impact Megan made to this Committee and to heritage preservation efforts in the Town of Essex and around Windsor and Essex County. Megan was a committed member of our Committee, attending meetings between chemotherapy sessions and offering her support at all our events. She was instrumental in helping us achieve the community heritage award through the University of Windsor and in assisting with the outstanding turnout for the guest speaker series in McGregor, her cherished community. She was a true champion for local history and heritage preservation, and on a more personal level, a

very strong and independent woman who loved learning and loved life. She undoubtedly made an impact on many individuals, myself included. I know she would've wanted us here tonight carrying the torch for heritage preservation and I know the Committee will carry her memory through our projects in 2020 and beyond.

Looking back at some of the emails shared between Megan and myself, she once told me she could not be in attendance for receipt of the Community heritage award but would be there in spirit. She will live on this Committee in spirit."

The Committee observes a moment of silence in remembrance of Megan.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

None

3. Adoption of Published Agenda

a) Thursday, October 24th, 2019 Regular EMHC Meeting Agenda

Richard Kokovai request that there be an amendment to the agenda under New Business item C) and that it state "Chair to send a letter of condolence on behalf of the Essex Municipal Heritage Committee to the Meloche family"

Moved by Richard Kokovai

Seconded by: Laurie Brett

(EMHC-2019-10-22) That the published agenda for the October 24th, 2019 Regular EMHC meeting, be adopted as amended.

"Carried"

4. Adoption of Minutes

a) Thursday, September 26th, 2019 EMHC Regular Meeting Minutes

Moved by Richard Kokovai

Seconded by Claudette Gauthier

(EMHC-2019-10-23) That the minutes of the September 26th, 2019 Regular EMHC Meeting, be adopted as presented.

"Carried"

5. Public Presentations

None.

6. Unfinished Business

a) Greater Marking and Public Education about Heritage - Ongoing

Rita asks the members if they know of any upcoming events in the local area.

Laurie Kowtiuk advises that on November 5 she will be attending an Elder College event and will display Heritage pamphlets.

Rita advises that at the September meeting, Chair Steve Bjorkman suggested that we contact John R Park homestead to place pamphlets. She states she will be in contact with them within the coming months.

Phil Pocock suggests that pamphlets be placed at local wineries.

Rita advises that the student may have placed pamphlets at the local wineries. She states she will review the student's notes to ensure placement.

b) Cemeteries –ongoing

Rita advises that she has spoken with the Clerk, Robert Auger. He advises that there has not been any action on declaring the cemeteries abandoned and that there currently is no timeline on when the application to the courts may be made.

She states that this does delay designating any cemeteries that may hold historical significance as the Town is not currently the property owner.

She advises that she will be in contact with the Ministry of Culture or the Heritage Planning Network to determine if designation can proceed without notifying the property owner.

c) Listing –ongoing

Rita advises that a report recommending the listing of 54, 94, 98, 102 Talbot Street as well as 138 Albert Street will be placed on the November 4th Regular Council meeting agenda.

d) Heritage Designation and Interpretive Plaque Program – ongoing

Rita states that the committee previously discussed placing a plaque on the greenway due to its significance in being the former Lake Erie and Detroit Rail line.

She states that Megan had discussed this location in length at the June EMHC meeting. The location for the plaque would be at the cement marker on the greenway at Paquette corners.

Rita advises that Megan was recently featured in a Windsor Star article on the Town's railway history where she spoke particularly about her family roots stretching deep into the fabric of Paquette corners / McGregor area, including her family's property which once housed the areas former post office.

Megan stated in the article: "I remember being very, very young and waking up to the train going through. We also walked those tracks all the time, picking up railroad ties, the nails and all kinds of stuff," says Meloche. "Growing up and becoming an historian and learning about local history, I've really learned just how important those tracks were — that these tracks I used to walk with my family, these were the tracks Hiram Walker built."

"All of us, I think, have a wandering soul and we all strive to be somewhere different at points in our life – and the train was the mode to get you somewhere on an adventure that you could explore. It's fantastic."

Rita states that the plaque in this location will require continued collaboration with ERCA. She states that with the Committees support she would like to make this

plaque a goal for 2020. She states she will speak with ERCA and update the members at the next meeting.

Phil Pocock suggests that the plaque state something about Megan and her legacy, seeing as this location for the plaque was her initiative.

Rita advises that she would like to dedicate the plaque in memory of Megan and place her quote from the Windsor Star article on the plaque "All of us, I think, have a wandering soul and we all strive to be somewhere different at points in our life – and the train was the mode to get you somewhere on an adventure that you could explore. It's fantastic."

She states that she will speak with ERCA on format and potential cost sharing as ERCA will require their own style of plaque. She will update the committee at the next meeting.

Laurie Brett provides the Committee with an article regarding Ty Cobb and his ties to the Essex area. She states that Ty Cobb may not be the "person" to place in a bronze cast for residents to take photos with on a bench but states that it could be an option. She states that she recently was reminded that Mr. Cobb was a notorious racist and we currently live in a politically sensitive time and would be hesitant to glorify Mr. Cobb in such a way.

Richard Kokvai states that Mr. Cobb was generally known for being a curmudgeon, however in his 40s and 50s he became extremely humble and charitable.

Joe Lucas states that history cannot be erased. Some items in history would not be acceptable today but they were acceptable in that point of time in history. He states that the Committee should be courageous and deliberate and focus on the positive of someone's life rather than the negative.

Laurie Brett suggests that research be done by the Heritage Student in 2020 regarding prominent figures that visited Essex or made a difference within Essex, such as the founding fathers.

e) Reports to Council

Rita advises that the only report going to council is the listing report in November.

f) Studies and Master Plans

Rita advises that she has spoken with the County of Essex and they will not be doing an Archeological Master Plan in 2020. She states that she has provided funds for a master plan to be completed in 2020 within the Town of Essex.

g) Friends of the Colchester Schoolhouse-ongoing

h) Heritage Week 2020

Rita advises that she received an email from Mr. Paul Loncke, English teacher at Essex District High School. She states that he is currently looking for four to five individuals

who are willing to be interviewed by his grade 9 students on a local history topic. She states that the students will have prepared questions, and will be doing the interview as part of their research. The interviews will be run in November. Some of the topics included are:

- The Town of Essex and WWII
- The Incorporation of the Town of Essex
- McGregor Centre
- Essex District High School - the history of the school and building
- The Essex House
- The "Valentine's day explosion"
- Essex Railway station

Laurie Kowtiuk states that she would speak regarding the "Essex House"

Laurie Brett suggests that Bill Gay, Morley Bowman and / or Marnie Aldridge could be interviewed for the history on the Essex Railway station.

She also suggests that Fred Groves or Jerry Schinkel could speak regarding the Valentine's Day Explosion.

She states that Mr. Wayne Miller could be interviewed regarding the incorporating of the Town of Essex.

Rita suggests the students speak with those at the Marsh Collection regarding the McGregor Centre history.

Rita advises that she will contact Mr. Loncke with the names and contact information provided early next week.

Sarah Aubin advises the members that she spoke with the Communications Manager regarding heritage week 2020 and the potential videos of seniors and youth exchanging stories on their childhood.

She states that the Communications Manager put her in contact with Jakob Skrzyzpa, Video Production who provided a quote of \$1000.00 for 5-10 participants with 3-5 minute video each to be displayed at an event during heritage week, provide content for Facebook post as well as other heritage promotions.

Phil Pocock states that a 30 second video depicting clips of the full length videos could be placed at the Essex & Harrow arena on the screens for people to watch while waiting for their loved ones.

Richard Kokovai states that he has a contact at the University of Windsor in the Communications Media and Film department. He states he will speak with them to see if we could partner and have students prepare and edit the videos for the event.

Laurie Brett states that should the University students be unavailable to complete the project, that Jakob Skrzyzpa has done videos for the Town of Essex. She advises he is extremely professional and has completed some fantastic videos. She states she would not hesitate to use his services.

Rita advises that administration will compare cost of the initiative as well as what heritage week 2020 cost will be to ensure that we are within budget. She will advise at the following meeting if this initiative will be completed.

i) Charles Maedel Commemoration Project

Rita advises that Doug Sweet, Manager of Communications, Deputy COA, advised that there will be a report sent to council in the coming quarter regarding the renaming of the Essex Community Centre. He advises that in the report he will state that he has the Heritage Committees support in changing the name to the Charles Maedel Community Centre.

j) Heritage Walking Tour and Digital Component

7. Reports from Administration

None.

8. Correspondence

None.

9. New Business

a) Heritage Grant

Rita advises the members that the Heritage Designation Grant was adopted under section 39 of the Heritage Act. She states that the act only refers to the Heritage Designated properties being eligible to participate in the grant not listed properties. She states that the majority of listed properties are within the Community Improvement Plan (CIP) area and that they could utilize this type of grant.

Phil Pocock asks if all listed properties are aware that they are within the CIP area and can take advantage of the grants.

Rita advises that the properties within the CIP area can only access the grant if they are wanting to change the use of the building from residential to commercial.

Laurie Brett states that the Heritage Designation Grant is given to those who have designated their property. She states should we change the requirements and allow listed properties to take advantage of grants, there will be no need to designate a historical property. She states the grants should remain as is.

b) Batten Schoolhouse

Rita advises the members that the Batten Schoolhouse is located at 2895 County Road 12. She states that the building was known as Gesto East and was then referred to as the Batten House. She states that Thomas Batten was the school Trustee.

Rita advises that the property has associative value. She states more research will be done and a suggestion to list the property will be presented to the Committee.

- c) Chair to send a letter of condolences on behalf of the Essex Municipal Heritage Committee to the Meloche family

Rita advises the members that she will write a letter to the Meloche family on behalf of the Committee members. She advises once it is complete she will contact the members to attend Town Hall to sign the letter.

10. Adjournment

Moved by: Richard Kokovai

Seconded by: Laurie Kowtiuk

(EMHC-2019-10-24) That the meeting be adjourned at 6:03p.m.

“Carried”

Next Meeting Date – Thursday November 28th, 2019 at Essex Municipal Building, 33 Talbot Street South, at 5:00 p.m.

Chair

Recording Secretary