

MINUTES

WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP HERITAGE and HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

Monday, August 10, 2020; 2:00 p.m.

Present: Nancy Maitland, Peter van der Maas, Diane Peters, Garry Peters, Karolyn Fournier

Regrets: Andrew Jacobson, Debbie Kroetsch, Jean Herrgott, Beth Lealess, Judy Mendicino, Ross Kelterborn, Carol Rankin, Carol Gregory.

1. Meeting was called to order at 2:02 pm by Nancy Maitland
2. Delegations - none
3. Minutes of the last meeting June 15, 2020 were reviewed and edited. Peter moved to accept the revised minutes, seconded by Dianne, carried.

4. Communications

- New member – Carol Rankin.
- Severance request of David Street property was denied by the Committee of Adjustment.
- Rural Diary Archive – Nancy received notice of the opportunity to volunteer to transcribe diaries in this project. Take a look at the link <https://ruraldiaries.lib.uoguelph.ca/home> if interested in reading about or helping with the project.

5. New Business

- **Heritage Committee GIC Investment:** Theresa Bisch notified Nancy that the GIC is maturing and \$383 interest will be paid. She asked us to let her know if we wished to reinvest the GIC principal amount only and deposit the interest to the cash account, or reinvest the principal amount plus the interest earned to the new GIC.

There is currently \$1,571 in the Heritage cash/reserve account. We haven't utilized this account for any large projects recently. The Heritage account is used for property designation and promotion. It was felt that we should reinvest the \$6,860 into a new GIC and deposit the interest into the cash account. We will need manpower to continue with more property designations.

Members present at the meeting agreed to ask Theresa to reinvest \$6,860 and put the interest in the Heritage cash/reserve account.

- **Historical society projects** – during the discussion pertaining to the Heritage funds, Peter said that the work Nancy has done on organizing the collection is good, but that we don't currently have any active historical education programs about indigenous people in the township or Black Lives Matter projects. We have money, we need manpower.
- **Council meeting – June 30** Nancy presented her report from 2019 and the WTHHS budget for 2020, and both were accepted by council.

On behalf of the WTHHS, Karolyn requested that Nancy's contract be renewed for 2020. This was accepted by council.

Nancy thanked Peter for his supportive words during the meeting and Karolyn for attending and participating.

- **Bridge Number 6** - Chris Cook, Director of Public Works at the township contacted WTHHS to inquire about the future of bridge # 6. It is crumbling and falling down and has been closed to vehicle and pedestrian traffic for quite some time. It has been proposed to demolish the bridge as it's a liability. It would be expensive to rebuild and the farmers who had used it have other access points to their property. Chris was looking for feedback from a historical perspective.

Nancy sent him an article about the bridge in the August 12, 2017 Record – “Literary landmark bridge left to crumble.” She will also forward the article to us.

- **WHS Annual volume** - we have received our copy. There is an article in this issue about Heidelberg (part one of three) written by a WHS member. She has been using our research files to write part of the stories. Also included is a short article by Nancy about how and why she nominated Charles Ottman to the 2019 Waterloo Region Hall of Fame.

6. Old Business

- **Tax Assessment Rolls update** - Nancy went to council chambers and spent a number of hours sorting out the tax assessment rolls to transfer to Regional Archives. She didn't get finished with the sorting and will need to return. It's best if we do the listing and measuring to order boxes, ourselves rather than having the region charge us for the time they'd spend completing the task. Although it would be more efficient to have more than one body sorting and measuring, it's not feasible due to the pandemic safety restrictions.

During her visit to the chambers, she discovered some tax collection rolls in addition to the tax assessment rolls, from about 1921 to 1954.

There will need to be a regional bylaw and a township bylaw to transfer these documents to the Regional Archives.

- **Wellesley on the Pond** – we are missing some issues in this publication. Nancy has reached out to the New Hamburg Independent to request permission to scan what we have to our website and to obtain missing copies. NHI/Torstar hasn't responded. It was suggested to contact Tracy at Castle Ki bride to see if their NHI files include Wellesley on the Pond. Nancy mentioned she might not pursue the missing copies, and we'd advertise that we have most of the set.

7. Chair/Curator's Report

Nancy said she is continuing to work on the cataloguing backlog. She was pleased to have had response from members re identifying photos in the newsletter. Jean Herrgott was able to identify the donor of the photo albums from St. Clements. Jean and Jerry will try to identify people in the photos.

Nancy said she had reorganized the navigation bar of our navigation bar into alphabetical order. She is ready to launch the new page of our digital collection and will perhaps write a press release about it for local newspapers. Her July article for “Embracing Change” was about the digital collection.

Nancy reported that she had added Emancipation Day information and a photo on Instagram, which resulted in many likes and a few new followers. She thanked Beth for adding the same information to our FB page. She also added some info re early Black settlers on our website.

We have a new donation from Mike Derose - a cast iron clock shelf which belonged to the Schmehl sisters.

Moving forward, Nancy said she will rescan the Wellesley Tweedsmuir at KPL and get the heritage register into editable format.

Web stats - monthly average YTD at end of July - 271 users, 342 sessions, and 1041 page views

At 2:35 pm zoom timed out and ended the meeting. Karolyn & Nancy logged back in and Karolyn emailed instructions to reconnect. At 2:43 pm Garry & Diane returned to the meeting

Nancy wants WTHHS more active on Instagram – we get more followers each time there's a post. She noted the correlation Instagram posts and visits to website.

The Grace Schmidt room is now available for use by appointment only. Nancy plans to return to re-scan the Wellesley Tweedsmuir.

Karolyn thanked Nancy for all the extra hours she puts in, over and above her duties as Curator.

8. Financial Reports

The financial reports were the same as at our last meeting.

9. Other Business

- Karolyn & Nancy to reach out again to Kim Banbury/Wellesley Remembered Facebook group to kindly inquire if there are hi-res copies of the digital images posted on the page. If so, would the group consider sharing them with WTHHS.
- Nancy asked for input on re-opening the historical room on Saturdays. Karolyn suggested we post on our website/web pages that due to COVID-19 the room will be open by appointment only. Nancy will ask Grace if the Township has input/opinion on this proposal.

10. Next Meeting: **Monday, September 14 at 2:00 pm** – Nancy will send out zoom invitations with the minutes & agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm

Minutes recorded by Karolyn Fournier