

Minutes

WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP HERITAGE and HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

Monday, September 14, 2020; 2:00 p.m.

Present by zoom: Nancy Maitland, Diane Peters, Garry Peters, Karolyn Fournier, Jean Herrgott, Calli Shaw, Carol Rankin

Regrets: Andrew Jacobson, Debbie Kroetsch, Beth Lealess, Judy Mendicino, Ross Kelterborn, Carol Gregory, Dave Holzschuh, Peter van der Maas

1. Meeting was called to order at 2:04 by Nancy Maitland.
2. Delegations - none
3. Minutes of the last meeting held August 10, 2020 – Jean Herrgott moved to accept the minutes, Dianne Peters seconded, carried.
4. Communications
 - New member – We welcome Calli Shaw. Calli used to live in Wellesley and moved to Toronto ten years ago. Her grandparents grew up in Wellesley and she has Roth and Roes relatives, Calli has been scanning family photos and said her grandmother can ID many of the people. She is willing to help out with social media tasks.
 - *Wilmot Post* is a new publication launching October 8, 2020. Lisa Hagen formerly of the *New Hamburg Independent* is looking for “Community Connects” column contributions from WTHHS. Nancy will make some contributions.
5. New Business
 - We’ve received two donations of \$50 each, bringing our total to \$125 this year.
 - Nancy received a call from Statistics Canada to connect a client to WTHHS. The client required residency information and the address of a property in Linwood. Julie Schnurr’s book has info on almost all Linwood properties and Nancy was able to provide the info required.
 - Regarding re-opening historical room on Saturdays: Grace Kosch said we would need to be in charge of cleaning the historical room, hallway and stairway. Nancy does not feel she can take on this responsibility. The first floor of the building is operated and cleaned by the Region. The library has re-opened with the following procedures in place: masks are required at all times, hand sanitizer needs to be available and used, contact tracing details recorded, physical distancing practiced, 30-minute limit on stay and limit to 7 people in room at a time. We could implement these procedures but cannot be responsible to cleaning the building.

Calli suggested we have a pre-screening process, even if “open” on Saturday schedule. Pre-screen suggested – go through questions with people and they can think more carefully if it’s a good idea to visit. Nancy said she would contact Grace to clarify if there are cleaners assigned to the Historical Room.

- Theresa has cashed in the Heritage Committee GIC and placed the proceeds in the Heritage Committee's bank account. She is waiting for interest rates to increase before reinvesting the matured GIC.
- Nancy is looking for volunteers to help decide which properties should be on the Municipal Heritage Register. She showed samples of other heritage registers. After combining properties on various lists created over the last 30 years, we have about 219 properties to choose from. Under the Ontario Heritage Act, we are required to present the list to Council for approval. In future, additional properties may be added by the Township Clerk. At present, each settlement area is a separate file. These will be combined when complete and posted on our website. Karolyn volunteered to help. Please contact Nancy if you have an interest in helping or have more questions on the project.

6. Old Business

- Tax assessment rolls – these show location and more detail about the property than census records, which record information about the people, Nancy has scanned the assessment rolls from Region of Waterloo Archives (1854-1889) and they are posted on our website. She found more records at the Council Chambers (1921-1954) and showed us a photo of the result of her organization. We would like to donate these to the Region of Waterloo Archives. She shared that we are getting close to getting this donated.
- Jean Herrgott volunteered to provide help with anything she can. Jerry Herrgott has been passing the photo albums around to Wellesley residents and getting names to identify faces.

7. Chair/Curator's Report

- With Grace's help, can use the Township's zoom account for our meetings.
- She's continuing to work on ongoing backlog of uncatalogued material
- *Wellesley on the Pond* publication, 1993-1999 (a monthly insert with *New Hamburg Independent* that always included a historical article). We are missing 4-5 issues. We do not have permission to scan or have them available online, so it will be advertised that paper issues only, are available in the Historical Room.
- Nancy replaced broken glass from 2 frames, with a stroke of luck and kindness, for free.
- In 2010 someone in Linwood donated images that were not identified. Murray and Beth Schlueter were able to provide ID
- Embracing Change October 2020 issues includes an article Nancy wrote about the Wellesley Fall Fair
- Donna Hudspeth (née Birmingham from Crosshill) gave us well identified photos of her family. In addition, Donna has donated a memory box which belonged to Jessie Harkness, a teacher at Crosshill School from 1912-1914, and niece of Tom Thomson. We have lovely photographs she took of the school in 1912 (inside and outdoor activity) Donna has scanned the photos, clippings and funeral cards for us. .
- Request for research on the experience of migrating from Germany to North America was received for use in a family history. Info was provided and the individual has granted permission to share on our website in Wellesley Roots.
- We've been unable to find a group to donate the old scanner to. Karolyn had shown interest for a project she's working on. It was agreed by other members that she is welcome to take it.
- Nancy is hoping to have a press release to announce our digital collection is complete and online.
- June minutes were added to website

Web stats: Monthly average YTD @ mid-September: 276 users; 330 session 1101 page views

Google analytics show our most visited webpage is History of Wellesley. Nancy would like to update that page with titles like “people”, “places” and *a word that means events that starts with P*. With this reorganization she hopes to direct people more deeply in our site. Submit your creative P words to Nancy.

8. Financial Reports

Historical Society	947.37
Heritage Committee	1,956.58
Heritage Committee GIC	6,860.00
Koehler Estate	355,136.62
Petty Cash	184.87
Total	365,085.44

9. Other Business

- Garry and Diane requested to borrow the slide scanner. Nancy said she would provide instructions as the ones with the scanner are not adequate.
- Karolyn and Kim Banbury have connected. Kim is happy to share photos from the “Remembering Wellesley” Facebook page and willing to participate in WTHHS.

10. Next Meeting: Monday, October 19th 2:00 pm via zoom

Meeting adjourned at 2:52 pm. Moved by Jean Herrgott.

Minutes recorded by Karolyn Fournier