

MINUTES

WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP HERITAGE and HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

Monday, November 16, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Present by zoom: Nancy Maitland, Karolyn Fournier, Carol Gregory, Blanche Moser, Diane Strauss, Diane/Garry Peters

Joined during meeting: Andrew Jacobson, Peter van der Maas, Jean Herrgott.

Regrets: Calli Shaw, Beth Lealess, Judy Mendicino, Ross Kelterborn, Dave Holzschuh, Debbie Kroetsch, Carol Rankin.

1. Call to order at 2:03 by Nancy Maitland.

2. Delegations - none

3. Minutes of the last meeting held October 19, 2020 were reviewed.

- Spelling error was corrected. Carol Gregory moved to accept the revised minutes, Blanche Moser seconded, carried.

4. Communications - none

5. New Business

- Microsoft Office: IT staff from the Township office is visiting the historical room today to see if we are able to use the Township's multi-user license, rather than purchase the software ourselves.
- 2020 AGM will be held tentatively in February 2020, pending pandemic guidelines. Nancy said she is stepping down from her role as Chair of WTHHS. Current officers should consider their role commitment and everyone should bring nominations to December meeting. A new slate of officers will be elected at the AGM.

6. Old Business

- **Municipal Heritage Register – Non-Designated Properties:** Volunteers so far are Jean Herrgott – St. Clements, Karolyn – Wellesley village, Debbie and Blanche expressed an interest in seeing what we already have for Bamburg and may be able to lend a hand.

Nancy contacted Margaret Rowell from Wilmot and asked if she would share a sample letter to send to people who own properties that are being or have been reviewed for the non-designated registry. Nancy read the email from Marg summarizing the steps and procedures practiced by Wilmot Township in the compilation of their registry. Tracy Loch will send us future communication that is sent out to property owners to use for reference in our project. The information from Marg is invaluable!

7. Chair/Curator's Report

- Odd-sized material donated for our collection have been transferred from their temporary boxes to acid-free boxes purchased earlier in the year. Reference numbers will be updated online to reflect their new location.
- Marilyn Berge, whose ancestors owned property on Paradise Lake, has been bringing well-identified photos and original documents for Nancy to scan and add to our collection. There is one more set of photos to scan and catalogue.
- Nancy has been cataloguing the large collection donated by Donna Hudspeth.

- Nancy researched the Royal Hotel for an article in *Embracing Change* magazine. Nancy shared pieces of the story and noted that the information found is a good addition to our collection. The hotel was built in 1857 and was first named the Berdux Hotel, the name changed later to the Royal Hotel.
- Questions were answered about St. John’s Cemetery from visitors to the pages of tax assessment scans.
- The new owners of a home on Queen’s Bush Road home are interested in the history of the property. Nancy is dropping off a copy of the DVD this afternoon. We only have 2-3 DVDs left. Nancy contacted Donna Nafziger, daughter of Andy Steckle, to see if we can get more copies, but the family wasn’t interested in producing more.
- Nancy is researching the postcard recently purchased online. The sender is Ann Sanders and the recipient is Miss Duench.
- A collector from Waterloo shared a photo of post card asked Nancy to identify the location of a postcard of a building with a “Post Office” sign. She was able to confirm its location in Wellesley, where Dr. Glaister’s house is now. This was the site of the Wellesley’s first post office from about 1851-1856. It is a very early picture of Wellesley and Nancy is hoping the owner will allow us to scan the post card and add it to our collection.
- Nancy has received some positive comments from researchers visiting our website. It was decided we should share these comments online.
- Jean and Jerry Herrgott are still passing the St. Clements albums around for identification. Jean has typed names and all Nancy has to do is cut and paste the names into the database,

Andrew Jacobson joined the meeting at 2:24 pm

- We are not pressing to re-open the historical room as guidelines are changing for the winter months.
- Nancy is leaving the guidebook “Heritage Property Evaluation” for Karolyn to pick up in the historical room for use in the Heritage Register project.
- Nancy contacted a family member of Charles Ottman to arrange for the return of an item on loan. Family members are being consulted as the lender would like to donate the small album of photos printed by Mr. Ottman for our collection.
- Postage expense was taken out of petty cash for materials returned to a lender by mail.

8. Financial Reports

Historical society	1,736.33
Heritage committee	1,956.58
Heritage committee GIC	6,860.00
Koehler	355,136.62
Petty cash	162.23
Total	365,851.76

Peter van der Maas and Jean Herrgott joined meeting at 2:31 pm

9. Other Business

- Peter proposed an idea for a historical recognition project. He’d like to start something to show publicly some of the history of our Township. For example, recognition of the Emancipation Picnic held in 1863 at Hawkesville, or signs similar to what Wilmot Township has erected at the locations of small historical settlements/communities. He has volunteered to lead the project. Please give it some thought and bring ideas to our next meeting. We need volunteers and ideas.

10. Next Meeting Monday, December 14, 2020 at 2:00 pm via zoom.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm – moved by Peter van der Maas.

Minutes recorded by Karolyn Fournier