

MINUTES

WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP HERITAGE and HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

Monday, February 15, 2021 2:00 p.m.

Present by Zoom: Nancy Maitland, Karolyn Fournier, Diane & Garry Peters, Andrew Jacobson, Jean Herrgott, Debbie Kroetsch, Diane Strauss, Peter van der Maas, Kevin Hackett, Martin Starr

1. **Call to order** – Nancy called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.

2. Annual General Meeting

- As outgoing Chair, Nancy said a few words about her role as curator since 2010 and chair since 2015. She thanked the members for their support, hard work and good ideas. She said it was time to move forward with new leadership and new ideas.
- Year-End Financial Reports as well as reports from the Chair, Curator and Secretary were distributed ahead of the meeting. There were several additions to the Chair's Report after which all four reports were approved.
- The AGM adjourned at 2:27.

Karolyn Fournier assumed the role of Chair and lead the regular monthly meeting.

3. **Minutes from last meeting** – January 18, 2021 – After correcting the date of the meeting, Diane Strauss moved and Andrew seconded a motion to accept the minutes as corrected.

4. **Communications** - none

5. New Business

- 2021 budget –Karolyn said she and Nancy had begun discussing a proposed budget but were not far enough along to present a draft to the members. This item will be moved to the next meeting.

6. Old Business

- Historical recognition project – there was a wide-ranging discussion of the aims and objectives of this project to be led by Peter van der Maas. He has suggested that plaques be placed through the township to commemorate events and places of historical importance, using existing plaques as a model. He suggested two possible plaques to begin with – the site of the 1863 Emancipation Day picnic on Temperance Island in Hawkesville to recognize the contribution of early Black settlers in the township, and something to commemorate Indigenous presence before White settlement.

Since we do not have photos of the picnic or early Black settlers, Kevin suggested using an artist's rendering of the scene. Peter said he would like plaques in/around Linwood and St. Clements. Nancy said she would contact Linwood historical Julie Schnurr about possibilities there. A site in St. Clements will require further research.

Peter said he had a quote from Riverside Brass in New Hamburg for about \$1000 per plaque. Debbie Kroetsch, who is on the Waterloo Historical Society plaque committee, said that their plaques are usually about \$2000 plus installation. We will try to get a firmer quote. Debbie suggested looking at other types of metal, such as aluminum. Karolyn suggested a pictorial "story board" like the one at Erb Street Mennonite Church. Debbie cautioned that the installation of any plaque will require permission, possibly several levels, i.e. from the Region and/or Township. It was suggested that installation might be handled by township staff.

Nancy suggested that we not to include the cost of a plaque in the budget, rather to wait until we have a firm proposal and price and then present it to Council for funds from the Koehler Estate. Peter pointed out that this was exactly the type of project Mr. Koehler might have had in mind when he made the bequest to the township.

7. Curator's Report

- Nancy said that he had redesigned the Wellesley Roots page on our website, adding a clip art image of a tree for which she paid \$5.00 (\$6.70 CAD taken from petty cash).
- She has finalized cataloguing for 2020 items and added cataloguing material to Inmagic.
- She worked with Karolyn to create reports of the AGM. She will work with Karolyn to transfer files and duties in her role as chair.
- She wrote an article about “Bandberg” for *Embracing Change*.
- She suggested a few additional possible sites for Peter’s project: Huber Cider Mill explosion; St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery
- She responded to a question from Beth Schlueter about the drill hall in Crosshill in reference a ceremony planned for the fall to mark the 100th anniversary of the use of the poppy on Remembrance Day.
- Some progress has been made on the heritage register. Since the curator role deals primarily with the collection, she suggested that the heritage register and other “built heritage” projects will be handled by Karolyn.
- As approved at our last meeting, she ordered display easels from Amazon \$149.26.

8. Other Business - none

9. **Next Meeting:** Monday, March 15, 2021

10. Meeting adjourned at 3:02 pm.