

MINUTES

WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP HERITAGE and HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

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

NOTE: The names and addresses of homeowners and researchers will be omitted from published minutes to maintain their privacy.

Present by Zoom: Nancy Maitland, Karolyn Fournier, Diane & Garry Peters, Andrew Jacobson, Dave Holzschuh, Debbie Kroetsch, Jean Herrgott, Martin Starr, Kevin Hackett

1. Call to order – Karolyn called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm.

2. Minutes of the last meeting – February 15, 2021; AGM and regular monthly meeting. Kevin moved and Dave seconded a motion to accept the minutes.

3. Communications – None.

4. New Business

Secretary - As we are required to have a permanent secretary rather than having members serve on a rotating basis, Karolyn announced that Nancy had volunteered for the role.

Heritage Designation - A homeowner in Wellesley contacted Nancy about the cost and process involved having his home designated, as well as funding opportunities. She sent him links to pertinent information and printed a few items which she dropped off at his home. A discussion ensued. Debbie gave a brief outline of her experience as chair of Wellesley's former LACAC several years ago. Research will have to be done to determine the number of changes that have been made. In this case, there seems to have been several, yet the home has great value as part of the "streetscape."

Debbie wondered if there would be any question raised about our ability to designate properties. Nancy said that Wellesley Township Heritage (formerly LACAC) had joined with the Wellesley Township Historical Society in 2007 (as noted in "About Us" on our website) so we are a committee of Council and have the right, in fact the responsibility, to designate properties of historical importance.

Nancy said we decided several years ago not to provide funding for designated properties as we do not have the expertise required to evaluate application. All requests for funding are referred to the Waterloo Region Heritage Foundation. Debbie said it is possible to appeal one's taxes through MPAC.

Karolyn said she would follow-up with the homeowner, asking more about his thoughts and reasons for designation and explaining the process.

2021 Budget – There was a short discussion of the 2021 budget which had been distributed ahead of the meeting. Andrew moved and Dave seconded a motion to accept the budget.

Category	2020 budget	2021 proposed
office supplies/admin	\$125.00	\$200.00
display supplies	\$175.00	\$250.00
membership (Waterloo Historical Society)	\$30.00	\$30.00
2-year subscription to <i>Canada's History</i> - donated to Wellesley branch library*	\$60.00	\$0.00
acquisition	\$150.00	\$150.00
acid free supplies	\$800.00	\$500.00

public meeting/workshop	\$50.00	\$0.00
Weebly - domain name renewal**		\$35.00
Weebly - web hosting**		\$75.00
Total	\$1,390.00	\$1,240.00

* renewed every 2 years (in the "even" years)

**renewed every 2 years (in the "odd" years)

Virtual Displays of the Future – Karolyn said that due to less foot traffic in the Historical Room we should be looking toward the use of virtual displays to showcase our exhibits and artifacts. Nancy said she had done some searching for software, but most were way more than we need. In the meantime, she will use the “gallery” feature on our site builder, Weebly, and perhaps PowerPoint. Andrew volunteered to do more research on this.

Debbie mentioned that Bridgeport has a Facebook page that features old photos and people respond with stories about the photos. It was agreed that we could be using our FB page to better advantage.

5. Old Business

Heritage Register – Nancy said Jean had completed her work on the St. Clements properties. Karolyn said she would work on the Wellesley properties now that the weather was more conducive to driving around the village. Diane asked about evaluating properties – those that look good or are significant historically.

Nancy said we need help with evaluating properties for the register. She suggested we ask a local expert and offer her an honorarium to help once the summaries from each settlement area are complete. She will first ask the township treasurer if we are able to pay the person from the Heritage Committee account. Dave moved and Debbie seconded a motion for Nancy to proceed.

Emancipation Day Plaque in Hawkesville – Nancy said she had prepared draft text for the plaque which Peter submitted to Riverside Brass for a quote. They replied:

18 x 24” \$2155 + HST = \$2774.15

15 x 21” \$1639 + HST = \$1852.07

Other considerations include the cost of installation, the location (safety for stopping / parking / viewing), Regional and/or Township permission to install a plaque, the use of alternate designs, such as a storyboard, and the use of other metals. As Peter was not able to attend the meeting, Karolyn will follow-up and ask him to pursue these issues.

6. Chair’s Report –

Minutes - Karolyn said she had asked Nancy to investigate the use of our minutes which are posted on our website. Nancy said they had been accessed 16 times since January 1, 2021. It was agreed that a header would be added to the minutes from now on saying that the names and addresses of people contacting the WTHHS, including researchers, would be omitted to preserve their privacy. Debbie asked if we have insurance. Nancy said the executive has insurance through the Township.

Meeting Schedule – As we try to aim for the second Monday of the month, Karolyn asked if it would be helpful to know the meeting schedule ahead of time. After a short discussion there was no agreement as to the need to know the dates a year ahead, and we would just aim for the second Monday of the month. Nancy said she would do a better job of posting minutes once they are approved and posting the date of the next meeting.

Council Meeting – Karolyn and Nancy will attend the Council meeting by Zoom on March 30. Karolyn will ask for the renewal of Nancy’s contact, the approval of our new directors, and our 2021 budget. Nancy will present her 2020 Curators’ report.

7. Curator's Report

- Completed cataloguing photos donated of donor's ancestors near Paradise Lake, 169 items in total
- Sent sample text for Emancipation Day plaque to Peter so he could get a quote
- Had 3 items appraised for a tax receipt for donor; broadsides \$100 each \$40 for the mortgage; will get forms signed and submit to Fiona Gilbert, Acting Treasurer
- Added Karolyn as Chair to signature on Gmail; gave Karolyn access to the Gmail inbox
- Met with Karolyn to discuss separation of duties
- introduced Grace to Karolyn by email; Karolyn will arrange for us to attend the next Council meeting
- Sold 2 books (\$11); sold a Steckly DVD (22.60) and 2 maps (\$2.00 to petty cash); will take money to Fiona
- Will possibly talk to someone from Doors Open to talk about Bean tombstone; link to article recently written <https://ladylatitudes.ca/2021/02/16/deciphering-the-man-behind-ontarios-bean-puzzle-tombstone/>
- Research - Merklinger/Oakes cemetery inscriptions; further research after book purchase; homeowner in St. Clements requested information about his home
- Web stats - YTD monthly averages - 242 users; 317 sessions; 1176-page views
- Organized photo reproductions used for *Maple Leaf Journal* and in LACAC files

8. Financial Reports

Historical Society	1776.33
Heritage Committee	6845.45
Petty Cash	159.63
Total	8781.41

9. Other Business –

- Diane said she had been given two items to donate – a pencil from Jacob Lotz' feed business and an ad (calendar photo) from Joseph R. Leis' business.
- Karolyn will follow-up with Julie Schnurr re photo used in a recent KW Record article about Schnurr's store in Linwood.
- Kevin said he would alert his Greenwood cousins of our website, Instagram account and Facebook page.

10. Next Meeting: April 12, 2021 at 2:00 pm

Jean moved and Dave seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:14.

Minutes recorded by Nancy Maitland