

MINUTES

WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP HERITAGE AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

Monday, May 17, 2021; 2:15 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, Curator, Karolyn Fournier, Chair, Dave Holzschuh, Diane Peters, Garry Peters, Andrew Jacobson, Lindsay Raftis, Secretary, Grace Kosch, Municipal Clerk

1. Call to order – Karolyn Fournier, Chair called the meeting to order at 2:17 pm.

2. Minutes from last meeting – April 12, 2021

Moved by: Dave Holzschuh – Seconded by: Andrew Jacobson

That the Wellesley Township Heritage and Historical Society committee approve the minutes of the April 12, 2021 meeting as amended.

Carried

3. Communications

Nancy Maitland, Curator provided an update on a project where information is taken from the City Directory and matched with Census records and other resources further stating the article called Visualizing Kitchener: Geocoding Historical Street Information was received and offered to forward the article if anyone is doing research on Kitchener.

Ms. Maitland, Curator informed WTHHS that as of April 6, 2021 the Region of Waterloo Archives has moved under the umbrella of the Region of Waterloo Museums and Charlotte Woodley, the Waterloo Region Archivist who will be joining that team as the Supervisor of Collections and Archives. Their location and services they provide will not change it is more of a supervisory/administrative change.

Nancy Maitland, Curator provided an update on the local woman who wrote an article about the Bean Tombstone in the Rushes Cemetery further stating the same local woman has written a book called Fuse which looks at conflicts and uncertainty of bi-racial people. Information is available upon request-

Diane Peters spoke to the article on the founding of Crosshill in Embracing Change, stating the article has Debbie Kroetsch's contact information. Karolyn Fournier, Chair tasked Ms. Maitland, Curator with contacting Embracing Change regarding the error.

4. New Business – None

5. Old Business

Virtual Display of the Future Update – Nancy Maitland, Curator suggested that it would be best to fully examine the options with the digital software that WTHHS already has and talk about WTHHS's collection management software called DB TextWorks produced by Inmagic. Ms. Maitland, Curator

suggested in the short term to use existing research to create a display that can be available electronically and not try and put the entire catalogue online at this time. Ms. Fournier, Chair agreed, Andrew Jacobson and Ms. Maitland, Curator have moved forward on this project.

Andrew Jacobson stated that he looked at Drift Scape and Building Stories which are two apps WTHHS had discussed and after researching Mr. Jacobson felt they are better suited for multiple sites of historical interest as opposed to illustrate what WTHHS has in the collection in a visual display. Mr. Jacobson suggested getting agreements from people living in the historic houses and create a way you could point out houses with historical significance in the area. Mr. Jacobson stated that WTHHS currently uses Weebly and it is best suited for our needs right now because videos and images can be posted. Mr. Jacobson stated that Weebly is ready and WTHHS can use it as it is and could use it to its full potential. Mr. Jacobson stated we could revisit the other ideas at a later date and is still researching Weebly.

Karolyn Fournier, Chair confirmed that we will continue looking into Weebly and questioned if Nancy Maitland, Curator has any ideas for moving forward. Ms. Maitland, Curator stated that the Crosshill research has images and captions and suggested working with Mr. Jacobson to research how Weebly could do a slideshow or a gallery using the research WTHHS already has to get started.

Emancipation Plaque Update – Nancy Maitland, Curator contacted local museums for story board information. Ms. Maitland, Curator contacted Karen VandenBrink at the City of Waterloo Archives who provided the name of a company in Montreal that creates story boards. Ms. Maitland, Curator also contacted Sandy Parks Waterloo Historical Society who provided the name of the same company in Montreal and additional leads. Ms. Maitland, Curator forwarded the information onto Karolyn Fournier, Chair and Councillor van der Maas. Ms. Maitland, Curator looked at the story board at the Erb Street Mennonite Church Cemetery and downtown Waterloo by Silver Lake and took some photos and sent the photos to Ms. Fournier, Chair and Councillor van der Maas. Prior to the meeting Councillor van der Maas questioned how long do the story boards last? Ms. Maitland responded WTHHS could reach out to the institutions that have erected them and the company that makes them to find out that information. Ms. Maitland, Curator suggested story boards are less expensive than a large metal plaque and cheaper to replace.

Ms. Maitland, Curator stated that Councillor van der Maas questioned if WTHHS has enough information to fill a story board? Ms. Maitland, Curator stated WTHHS's first story board or plaque is going to be about the 1863 Emancipation Day picnic in Hawkesville further suggesting that WTHHS could use the Tremaine map of 1861 as it has an inset of all the local villages. Ms. Maitland, Curator explained that there is inset of Hawkseville that just cuts off and does not show the islands. Ms. Maitland, Curator suggested using that map, but acknowledges that the Temperance island is not pictured on the Tremaine map. Ms. Maitland, Curator also suggested using the article she had written on the emancipation day picnic and formatting the article in an older newspaper font. Ms. Maitland, Curator acknowledged that for this story board there is a lack of pictorial information and suggested keeping the story board simple if we decide to use a story board instead of a plaque.

6. Heritage Committee

Non-Designated Heritage Register Evaluation Update – Nancy Maitland, Curator provided an update stating that she has been working on this and is close to being finished, further stating there are 35 properties suggesting it is a good number to start this register with. Ms. Maitland, Curator stated that WTHHS had files on many of these properties and much of the work has been done and she has been

rewriting and putting the information into a template, so it is organized. Ms. Maitland, Curator acknowledged that very little had been done on Linwood and would like to thank Diane and Garry Peters for the information on the properties they had suggested. Ms. Maitland, Curator stated that she has historical information on those properties, but is missing the architectural features. Ms. Maitland, Curator will contact Marg Rowell to gather information regarding architectural details as to why these buildings are important architecturally.

Zoeger House Designation Update – Ms. Maitland, Curator stated that WTHHS has quite a bit of information in existing files. In 2008 the Heritage Resource Centre at the University of Waterloo completed a study for the Township and they have a template for the Non-Designated Heritage Register and is using that information to create a template to figure out where to input the information WTHHS has on a standardized form. Ms. Maitland, Curator is completing work on the Zoeger family that has not been done in the past, further stating that the owner would apply for funding through the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation through their online application platform. The owner can work on that until WTHHS is able to get the designation completed. Ms. Maitland, Curator acknowledged that this process takes a long time-

7. Chair Report - Ms. Fournier, Chair informed WTHHS that Ms. Maitland, Curator and Ms. Fournier, Chair attended the virtual Committee of the Whole meeting on April 13th where the WTHHS budget and the curator's contract renewal was approved for 2021 by Council. Ms. Fournier, Chair stated that Ms. Maitland, Curator provided the curator's report and the financial report for the 2020 year. Ms. Maitland, Curator acknowledged and thanked Grace Kosch, Municipal Clerk, retired Treasurer, Theresa Bisch, and Acting Treasurer, Fiona Gilbert, for their support and assistance to the WTHHS committee. Grace Kosch, Municipal Clerk responded and notified WTHHS that The Township of Wellesley has hired a new Treasurer, Saleem Sandhu. Ms. Fournier, Chair thanked Grace Kosch, Municipal Clerk for the phenomenal support from the Wellesley Township.

8. Curator's Report – Ms. Maitland, Curator stated that one of the researchers on the WTHHS Wellesley Roots page suggested that a blurb be written about Wellesley Roots for the Ontario Ancestors Facebook page. The blurb has been completed which is a description of what it is and how people can use it. The Ontario Ancestors Facebook page is a result of the former Waterloo-Wellington Ontario Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society. The Branch disbanded because they had very few members, but have now resurfaced at Ontario Ancestors on Facebook. If someone finds information on a family that they are interested Ms. Maitland can contact the writer of that research. A recent request about the Moser family research for Blanche Moser was received. Ms. Maitland, Curator noted that even though there are other online forums for people sharing family history research, WTHHS's is attracting attention. Ms. Maitland, Curator had a request for photographs of Bridge #6 from John Sleeth from ASI, which is a Canadian owned company to increase public awareness of the importance of the province's heritage. Ms. Maitland stated that this company is completing cultural heritage evaluation report for the Township about Bridge #6. Ms. Maitland, Curator stated that WTHHS does not have any photographs in their collection. Ms. Maitland, Curator stated that a local photographer, Trevor Horne has taken an absolutely stunning photograph of that bridge which has been sent to John Sleeth to use in one of their publications. Ms. Maitland, Curator provided website statistics, monthly averages year to date are 319 users per month and 419 sessions meaning that people are coming back, and the average is 1424 page views per month.

9. Financial Report – Karolyn Fournier

Ms. Fournier, Chair stated the Heritage Society had no expenditures, interest earned \$5.64. Historical Society had no expenditures, earned \$1.06 in interest. Ms. Fournier, Chair questioned Weebly withdrawals, for a subscription fee that has not been taken out of the account. Ms. Maitland, Curator answered that the Weebly subscription is going to run out on June 3, 2021. Ms. Fournier, Chair acknowledged and provided the cash balances:

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| Heritage Society | \$8,855.40 |
| Historical Society | \$1,658.75 |
| Petty Cash | \$152.73 |
| Total | \$10,666.88 |

10. Other Business

11. Next Meeting: Monday June 21, 2021 - 2:00 pm

Moved by: Nancy Maitland - Seconded by: Dave Holzschuh
That the WTHHS meeting does now adjourn at 2:53 pm

Carried