

## WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP HERITAGE AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

Monday, March 21, 2022; 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:** Andrew Jacobson, Chair; Nancy Maitland, Curator; Secretary; Diane Peters; Garry Peters, David Holzschuh; Debbie Kroetsch, Kevin Hackett, Robert Nyman. Debbie Kroetsch

1. **Call to order** – Andrew Jacobson, Chair, Chair called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm.

2. Minutes from last meeting – February 14, 2022

Moved by: David Holzschuh - Seconded by: Kevin Hackett

That the minutes of February 14, 2022 be adopted as presented.

*Carried*

3. Delegations – Geoff VanderBaaren, Director of Planning and Grace Kosch, Municipal Clerk  
Regarding the acknowledgement plaques.

Nancy Maitland, Curator spoke to the previous meeting, indicating there were questions about having plaques with an indigenous land acknowledgement statement. Ms. Maitland summarized our previous discussions for the benefit of Planning Director Geoff VanderBaaren. She said at this point, what we need is guidance from the Township as to how to move forward with these 3 plaques.

David Holzschuh spoke to the email from the Region of Waterloo, further indicating there are no specific maps specifying lines where Indigenous groups lived. Wellesley Township, today, does exist in 2 different territories which is included in both the Region's and Township of Wellesley land acknowledgement.

Nancy Maitland, Curator spoke to the previous meeting that the Committee looked at several different options, one being to go ahead with the plaques without including that statement, and if a statement is mandated at a later date, we can add another small plaque with the statement underneath it, two, being to wait until the Township has a statement and a policy they want us to follow.

Geoff VanderBaaren, Director of Planning stated this is an ongoing discussion that all of the municipalities are having. Several staff members are sitting on committees that deal with the Indigenous consultation material. What it comes down to is, nobody has the right answer at this point. We are all working towards getting something in place that is acceptable to all the municipalities in the Region. Mr. VanderBaaren further stated, there are various treaties that do apply to Wellesley Township.

Various treaties do exist in Wellesley Township and those treaties also apply to the Haldimand Tract, stating there is a lot of layering of different things here. Although Wellesley Township is outside of the Haldimand Tract we still have the same responsibilities to the same types of Indigenous groups. In talking to other municipalities about this, most of them are not doing anything at the moment because they don't want to put something on a plaque that may be changed later and also not approved by Council. One group is meeting directly with the Six Nations group as well as the Mississaugas of the New Credit, which are the 2 that are most directly related.

Mr. VanderBaaren, Director of Planning stated the recommendation he would put forward is to go forward with no land acknowledgement on the plaques.

Mr. Jacobson, Chair stated he would like to bring forward a motion to wait to put the plaques up next year

to celebrate the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary rather than this year, giving us more time to form a committee for the emancipation plaque and the other plaques.

Nancy Maitland, Curator indicated that we can move forward based on the recommendation from Mr. VanderBaaren and not address the dates at this time. Ms. Maitland further stated when a decision is made regarding the land acknowledgement statement, then we can move forward with adding that under the plaque.

Dave Holzschuh, said the safest avenue for us to follow is to nothing until the different levels of government make a decision. Nancy Maitland, Curator further stated, "I think we should move forward with the plaques without the land acknowledgement statement."

Debbie Kroetsch suggested the land acknowledgement be applied to the Township entrance signs. Grace Kosch, Municipal Clerk responded the entrance signs are the property of the Region of Waterloo.

Andrew Jacobson, Chair asked about a date suggesting August 1<sup>st</sup>? Nancy Maitland, Curator responded "Councillor van der Maas wanted it in the spring but it may be a little muddy ... If we want to have it coincide with the date of the picnic, that can be determined at a later date." Nancy indicated the various steps that need to be done before the date is determined, text of the plaque approved, estimate from Riverside Brass and a report to Council to use funds from the Koehler Estate for installation.

Nancy Maitland, Curator will add the request for participants of the plaque committee in the next newsletter.

4. Communications – Fiona Gilbert, Deputy Treasurer/Tax Collector
5. New Business  
Indigenous Acknowledgement on historic site plaques. Comments as above.
6. Old Business – Nancy Maitland, Curator provided the following:  
Emancipation Plaque – Update. Comments as above.

#### Heidelberg Meadows Plaque – Update

Nancy Maitland, Curator, stated she sent out text for the 3 plaques, requesting comments or corrections. No responses have been received to date.

#### Dewar Bridge – Update

Nancy Maitland, Curator stated the engineering company that we have been in touch with is putting the erection of 2 plaques at that bridge, into the contract.

Andrew Jacobson, Chair asked if we need to send a proposal to the Township to put the plaques up? Nancy Maitland, Curator responded by asking the Municipal Clerk if everything could be included in one report. Grace Kosch, Municipal Clerk responded, yes.

This bridge is on Chalmers Forest Road between Streicher Line and Deborah Glaister Line, being bridge, #5.

Debbie Kroetsch stated she will go and take pictures of the engravings on the bridge.

Nancy Maitland, Curator spoke to saving the engraved barriers.

Nancy Maitland, Curator questioned if there is any thought of moving the historical room or library to the new recreation complex? Grace Kosch, Municipal Clerk responded, no. Nancy Maitland, Curator further asked about a display area for the Historical Society to put items of interest out? Grace Kosch, Municipal Clerk responded, I am not aware of anything at this time, further suggesting to contact either the CAO or the Director of Recreation for more information.

## 7. Heritage Committee Update

### Wellesley house designation

Nancy Maitland, Curator spoke about a homeowner approaching the committee regarding designating his home - not moving forward, no grants from the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation will be offered until at least fall

### Non-designated register

Nancy Maitland, Curator, stated she would like to send this to someone and pay them to complete for a report to Council

Nancy Maitland, Curator stated we have money \$6,000 Heritage Fund.

Nancy Maitland, Curator suggested to contact Marg Rowell from Wilmot to complete? Members agreed and Nancy Maitland, Curator will go ahead and get a quote.

Moved by: David Holzschuh – Seconded by Debbie Kroetsch

The Wellesley Township Historical and Heritage Society members present support Nancy Maitland's request to contact Marg Rowell to get a quote to complete the non-designated register.

Six letters and by-law has been sent to designated property owners, prepared and sent by Geoff VanderBaaren indicating that designations is for the property not the property owners.

## 8. Chair Report

Fiona Gilbert, Acting Treasurer replaces Saleem Sandhu as our Township financial contact.

## 9. Curator's Report – Nancy Maitland, Curator spoke to:

- Request from a gentleman regarding the Post office in Linwood – postcard collector – wants information
- \$40.00 donation – Feb 2022
- Website update – historical room open again
- Website statistics

## 10. Financial Report – Andrew Jacobson, Chair provided the following update:

Total funds available - Historical \$1,144.38; Heritage Committee \$8,705.94; Koehler Estate Fund \$349,783.24 Petty Cash \$129.70

## 11. Other Business

Nancy Maitland, Curator spoke to her request of ways to reduce/re-assign her workload

Andrew Jacobson, Chair spoke to the workload, indicating that members of the committee could help when a request is brought forward by Nancy Maitland, Curator.

Nancy Maitland, Curator requested coverage of the Historical Society Room is open on Saturday March 26 – Andrew Jacobson, Chair will attend

Nancy Maitland, Curator spoke to the budget and the renewal of her contract – she will come to the Council Meeting on April 26, 2022 and possibly include the plaque proposal and request for funds. Andrew Jacobson, Chair to attend the meeting as well to speak to the renewal of the curator position and will request approval of the budget.

12. Next Meeting – Monday April 25, 2022 - 2:00 pm.

#### Adjournment

Moved by: Nancy Maitland, Curator; Seconded by: Kevin Hackett

That the WTHHS Annual General Meeting and regular meeting adjourn at 3:00 pm.

*Carried*