

Historic Sites Committee

Meeting of January 9th, 2008

A meeting of the Historic Sites Committee was held in the Admin Room, Central Library at 4:30 p.m. with the following present:

Members: Hilary Bates Neary, Chair, Jason Jordan, John Lutman, Arthur McClelland, Anne McKillop, Margaret Mitchell, Mike Murphy, Jonathan Vance;

Apologies: Cliff Oliver, Gary Kerhoulas .

HS08/01 **Minutes of the October 3, 2007 meeting:**

It was MOVED by Mr. Vance and seconded by Mr. Murphy that the minutes from the October 3, 2008 meeting be approved.

CARRIED

HS08/02 Business Arising from the Minutes

Engine 86 – The engine itself needs a complete restoration.

Buchan House – The plaque needs to be continuously monitored since there is ongoing construction /restoration to the house.

HS08/02.1 Locust Mount

This Locust Mount plaque is now stored safely in the London Room.

HS08/03 New Business

Nomination of Chair

H. Bates Neary was nominated by A. McClelland.

H. Bates Neary was acclaimed Chair, 2008.

HS08/03.1 Report on Stenographer and New LPL Staff-Support person

Administration will provide continued staff support to the Committee.

HS08/03.2 Financial Report

Ms. Mitchell presented a financial report. There is \$1,300 left in the Mills project account and \$1,200 in the General Account/Walking guide account.

HS08/03.3 LPL Website and Historic Sites Committee

There is currently no space identified for information on the Historic Sites Committee on the LPL website. Mr. McClelland has contacted Ms. Manax Skikos to rectify this situation. Mr. McClelland will provide further information at the next meeting. Mr. Vance from the website sub-committee will email Mr. McClelland the information which should be included on the LPL website.

HS08/03.4 Passing of Miss Betty Spicer

Ms. Spicer, the first London Room librarian, was a powerful figure in the early years of the Historic Sites Committee. Mr. McClelland will provide contact information to send a sympathy card from the Committee to express collective condolences and advise that a tribute is being planned for the London Room. A framed photograph of Miss Spicer will be permanently mounted in the London Room.

HS08/03.5 Mills Project

Ms. Bates Neary has contacted Mr. Andrew McPherson at the City of London regarding the Thames Valley Corridor Plan. She was advised that a City staff person would be in touch with the Historic Sites Committee. As yet, no contact has been made and Ms. Bates Neary will contact Mr. McPherson a second time.

HS08/03.6 Walking Guide

The Walking Guide is currently sold in the Library store and Novacks. It was suggested that a promotion of the book be launched during Heritage Week (starting February 18th). Oxford Book Shops may be able to assist in the promotion of local history.

Ms. Mitchell will contact Tourism London regarding the sale of the Walking Guide at their location.

Members discussed the possibility of dropping the price of the Walking Guide along with other ideas such as:

- Selling the Guide at events around London, such as the Library booksale
- Providing the Guide as a giveaway for the Mayor's Office
- Offering the book to the two school boards as a curriculum or resource tool at a reduced price
- Doing a presentation on local history to retired school teachers

Ms. Bates Neary asked that members bring interesting ideas and suggestions to the March 5th meeting.

HS08/03.7 Historic Sites Committee Archives

In progress.

HS08/04 Plaques – Lost, Future, to be monitored

Plaque Unveiling – Margaret Fullerton

On January 21st, 2008 at 5:00 p.m., the plaque will be presented to City Council. A copy of the Walking Guide will be given to all members of City Council. Historic Sites Committee members will meet at 4:50 p.m. in the lobby of City Hall.

HS08/04.1 McCormick's Plaque

Beta Brands has gone into receivership and the plaque is missing. Ms. Bates Neary has contacted the receiver. LACH should be advised of missing plaque.

HS08/04.2 African Methodist Episcopal Church

It was suggested that a letter be sent to Mr. Donnelly advising that the Historic Sites Committee has no power to designate properties, it is the responsibility of the City of

London as advised by LACH. It was pointed out that this building is one of London's last specifically linked to black history.

HS08/04.3 Blackburn Sisters Update

The owners are concerned with graffiti and vandalism on their building if a plaque is erected.

HS08/04.4 Locust Mount Update

The City has received a demolition permit to destroy the building after a fire. On January 14th at 4:30 p.m., the Planning Committee will be discussing the future of Locust Mount. A motion has been put forward by the London Region Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario to create a garden, commemorating the importance of the Leonard Family and their home, Locust Mount to the City of London. H. Bates Neary will speak on behalf of the Historic Sites Committee in support of the garden idea.

HS08/04.5 Ideas for New Plaques

Infotech Research Group (originally the home of Benjamin Cronyn Junior and later the Central Baptist Church – 602 Queens Avenue) – Mr. McClelland is currently doing research on the house. Mr. Lutman would be prepared to contact the owners. For the next meeting, please bring new ideas for plaques.

HS08/05 LACH Report – A. McClelland

October

Items of Interest: Riverbend South Area Plan (Draft)

Reasons for Designation: 69 Bruce Street
90 Ridout Street South

November

Items of Interest: CHO (Community Heritage Ontario) News, October 2007
Article on Building Documentation
Ontario's First Railway Engine Designation, Cornwall

Statement of Heritage Significance: 17 Elmwood Avenue East

December

Items of Interest: Long Term Strategy for Downtown

Revitalization
Oldest Baseball Diamond in North America
West Woodfield Heritage Conservation District

Statement of Heritage Significance: McCormick's Factory (1166 Dundas Street)
320 Princess Avenue

January

Items of Interest:

ACO Report on Locust Mount
Landmarks London 2007 Grants

HS08/06

Information Items

Mrs. McKillop is assisting in the preparation of a list of top 25 buildings which are endangered in the City of London. Please advise Mrs. McKillop or Mr. Don Menard by end of January if you wish to add input to this report.

HS08/06

Next Meeting

Meetings will continue to be scheduled from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Admin Meeting Room, Central Library.

Meetings for 2008 are:

March 5th

May 7th

September 24th

November 5th

The Committee is still awaiting a Library Board appointment to the Committee. This will be discussed at the Board's January 16th meeting.

ON MOTION, the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.