



**Town of Aurora
Heritage Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Monday, October 7, 2024
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Holland Room, Aurora Town Hall

Committee Members: Bob McRoberts, Honourary Member (Vice Chair)
Cynthia Bettio
David Heard
Rocco Morsillo

Members Absent: Kevin Hughes
John Green, Aurora Historical Society Representative

Other Attendees: Ishita Soneji, Deputy Town Clerk
Adam Robb, Manager, Policy Planning and Heritage
Linda Bottos, Council/Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Committee acknowledged that the meeting took place on Anishinaabe lands, the traditional and treaty territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island, recognizing the many other Nations whose presence here continues to this day, the special relationship the Chippewas have with the lands and waters of this territory, and that Aurora has shared responsibility for the stewardship of these lands and waters. It was noted that Aurora is part of the treaty lands of the Mississaugas and Chippewas, recognized through Treaty #13 and the Williams Treaties of 1923.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Cynthia Bettio

Seconded by Rocco Morsillo

That the revised agenda as circulated by Legislative Services be approved.

Carried

4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50*.

5. Receipt of the Minutes

5.1 Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of June 10, 2024

Moved by Rocco Morsillo

Seconded by Cynthia Bettio

1. That the Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of June 10, 2024, be received for information.

Carried

6. Delegations

6.1 Christopher Watts, The Aurora Heritage Authority; Re: Town of Aurora Heritage Awards

Christopher Watts provided a presentation in support of reinstating Aurora's Heritage Awards program. They further expressed questions on the history and status of the Heritage Awards program, the Town's Architectural Salvage Program, and the Heritage Advisory Committee's Pending List.

Moved by David Heard

Seconded by Cynthia Bettio

That the comments of the delegation be received for information.

Carried

7. Matters for Consideration

7.1 Memorandum from Manager, Policy Planning and Heritage; Re: Heritage Permit Application - 77 Wellington Street East

Staff provided an overview of the memorandum and proposal for a minor rear addition to accommodate additional space in support of the existing daycare use, noting the rear addition qualifies for delegated approval due to the generally minor nature of the proposed work. The Committee expressed no opposition to the proposal and inquired about the requirement for use of non-combustible siding material. Staff confirmed that the intent is to aesthetically match the existing siding. The Committee had no further concerns with this or proceeding with delegated approval.

Moved by Rocco Morsillo

Seconded by David Heard

1. That the memorandum regarding Heritage Permit Application - 77 Wellington Street East be received; and
2. That the Heritage Advisory Committee comments regarding Heritage Permit Application - 77 Wellington Street East be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Carried

7.2 Memorandum from Manager, Policy Planning and Heritage; Re: Hillary House Considerations

Staff provided an overview of the memorandum and request from the Aurora Historical Society to collaborate with the Town and explore options toward ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Hillary House National Historic Site. Staff noted that input is being sought from the Heritage Advisory Committee along with feedback from the public, which will be summarized in a report back to Council.

The Committee provided feedback including: (1) Hillary House should be owned and managed by the Town; the Aurora Historical Society as a volunteer board should not be responsible to manage the property; (2) continue to use property as a museum and community space for events, tours, banquets, etc.; (3) property is underutilized and should be enhanced

through connectivity to Fleury Park, the trails system, Aurora Community Centre, the downtown core, and the rehabilitation of the waterworks yard; (4) promote the landscaping and natural elements of the property; (5) promote heritage tourism through marketing and increasing awareness of Hillary House to the public, business sector, and school groups; and (6) pursue federal grants.

Moved by Cynthia Bettio

Seconded by Rocco Morsillo

1. That the memorandum regarding Hillary House Considerations be received; and
2. That the Heritage Advisory Committee comments regarding Hillary House Considerations be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Carried

8. Informational Items

8.1 Memorandum from Deputy Town Clerk; Re: 2025-2026 Citizen Member Recruitment for Advisory Committees

Staff provided an overview of the memorandum, highlighting that current citizen members must reapply for the second half of the 2022-2026 Council term to be considered for this committee or any other committee of interest. Staff confirmed that all applications would be brought forward for Council's consideration once the application period has ended.

Moved by David Heard

Seconded by Cynthia Bettio

1. That the memorandum regarding 2025-2026 Citizen Member Recruitment for Advisory Committees be received for information.

Carried

9. New Business

Staff provided an update on the screening of the Pet Cemetery documentary, being held during the time of this meeting in the Performance Hall at Aurora

Town Square, and advised that Cultural Services staff have offered to host a private screening for the Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) members immediately prior to the December 9, 2024 HAC meeting at Town Hall. The Committee expressed their preference for a viewing at Aurora Town Square and staff agreed to liaise with Cultural Services staff and propose an alternate night in the Performance Hall.

The Committee offered suggestions regarding the timing and theme of the next Doors Open Aurora event, noting that previously there was greater participation of sites and visitors in August than in October. Staff clarified that the Ontario Heritage Trust's Doors Open Ontario program determines the provincewide theme each year and that a separate organizing committee, which can include Committee members along with a range of community partners, is required to coordinate the event.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Cynthia Bettio

Seconded by Rocco Morsillo

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Carried