



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

**Date:** Monday, February 3, 2025  
**Time:** 7 p.m.  
**Location:** Holland Room, Aurora Town Hall

**Committee Members:** Councillor Wendy Gaertner (Chair)  
Cynthia Bettio\*  
John Green, Aurora Historical Society Representative (Vice Chair)  
Bob McRoberts, Honourary Member  
Rocco Morsillo  
Chris Polsinelli

**Members Absent:** Linda Duringer

**Other Attendees:** Councillor Ron Weese\*  
Jeremy Hood, Museum Collections Technician  
Michelle Johnson, Collections and Exhibitions Coordinator  
Adam Robb, Manager, Policy Planning and Heritage  
Ishita Soneji, Deputy Town Clerk  
Linda Bottos, Council/Committee Coordinator

\*Attended electronically

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**1. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

**1.1 Appointment of Committee Vice Chair**

**Moved by** Bob McRoberts  
**Seconded by** Rocco Morsillo

1. That John Green be appointed as Vice Chair of the Heritage Advisory Committee for a one-year term (2025).

**Carried**

**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** Bob McRoberts  
**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 December 9, 2024**

**Moved by** Rocco Morsillo  
**Seconded by** Bob McRoberts

1. That the Heritage Advisory Committee meeting minutes of December 9, 2024, be received for information.

**Carried**

**6. Delegations**

**6.1 Christopher Watts, The Aurora Heritage Authority; Re: The Aurora Armoury Provincial Plaque**

Christopher Watts presented background on the Aurora Armoury Provincial plaque erected in 2007, noting the outdated plaque wording does not accurately reflect the current use of the Armoury, and requested that consideration be given to ordering a replacement plaque, the correction of any digital footprints, and communication of the results. Staff confirmed this matter is being addressed through Ontario Heritage Trust and updates would be reported back to the Committee.

**Moved by** Cynthia Bettio

**Seconded by** Bob McRoberts

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 HPA-2025-01 - Happy Woodland Pet Cemetery (14314-14378 Yonge Street)**

Staff provided a brief overview of the memorandum and introductions. Michelle Johnson, Collections and Exhibitions Coordinator, accompanied by Jeremy Hood, Museum Collections Technician, presented a summary of the application including a site overview and items requiring alteration including pathways; monument relocation and restoration; problematic monuments; and landscape maintenance and design enhancements.

The Committee and staff discussed the uniqueness of the inactive Cemetery, requirements for starting an active cemetery, the proposed permeable pathway and accessible options, and the handling of inappropriate inscriptions on monuments. The Committee expressed support for the work being done and the preference to retain the original form of any monument to preserve historical accuracy, and suggested that an understanding of why certain language is no longer used be provided through a central interpretative/disclaimer plaque or QR codes.

**Moved by** John Green

**Seconded by** Cynthia Bettio

1. That the memorandum regarding Heritage Permit Application HPA-2025-01 - Happy Woodland Pet Cemetery (14314-14378 Yonge Street) be received; and
2. That the Heritage Advisory Committee comments regarding Heritage Permit Application HPA-2025-01 be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

**Carried**

**7.2 Memorandum from Manager, Policy Planning and Heritage; Re: Heritage Permit Application HPA-2025-02 - Aurora War Memorial and Cenotaph (14659 Yonge Street)**

Staff provided a brief overview of the memorandum and application for the restoration and remedial work to be performed at the Aurora War Memorial Peace Park and Cenotaph.

The Committee expressed appreciation for the research done and inquired about whether the spelling of the Luxton Avenue street sign would also be corrected to “Luxon”, which staff confirmed would be addressed. The Committee further inquired about the status of the fence surrounding the Park and staff provided clarification regarding the buffer requirements of any adjacent development application.

**Moved by** Bob McRoberts

**Seconded by** John Green

1. That the memorandum regarding Heritage Permit Application HPA-2025-02 - Aurora War Memorial and Cenotaph (14659 Yonge Street) be received; and
2. That the Heritage Advisory Committee comments regarding Heritage Permit Application HPA-2025-02 be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

**Carried**

**8. Informational Items**

None.

**9. New Business**

As two new members were present for the 2025-2026 term of the Committee, introductions were made around the table.

Staff provided an update on the student co-op pilot project now commencing and the Committee provided background information.

The Committee inquired about the status of the Petch House upgrades and staff agreed to provide an update at the next meeting. The Committee further inquired about the viability of relocating the Petch House to the Hillary House property and it was agreed to discuss this matter at a future meeting.

The Committee inquired about the viability of using a storage container to store Salvage Program items, and staff provided a response noting the priority is to salvage and re-use onsite.

Staff advised that a wooden plaque was recently presented to the Johnson family and installed at 71 Connaught Avenue.

Staff advised that an additional screening of the Pet Cemetery documentary is planned for Sunday, March 23, 2025, at 2 p.m. in the Performance Hall at Aurora Town Square. It was noted that seats would be set aside for Heritage Advisory Committee members and their families.

**10. Adjournment**

**Moved by** Rocco Morsillo

**Seconded by** Chris Polsinelli

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

**Carried**