



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

Date: Monday, February 9, 2026
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Holland Room, Aurora Town Hall

Committee Members: Councillor Wendy Gaertner (Chair)
Cynthia Bettio
Linda Duringer
John Green (Vice Chair), Aurora Historical Society
Representative
Bob McRoberts, Honourary Member
Rocco Morsillo
Chris Polsinelli* (departed 9:02 p.m.)

Other Attendees: Councillor Ron Weese
Matthew Volpintesta, Manager, Parks and Fleet*
Adam Robb, Manager, Policy Planning and Heritage
Linda Bottos, Council/Committee Coordinator

*Attended electronically

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

The Committee consented to extend the hour to 9:30 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 John Green

Seconded by Cynthia Bettio

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 8, 2025

Moved by Cynthia Bettio

Seconded by Rocco Morsillo

1. That the Heritage Advisory Committee meeting minutes of December 8, 2025, be received for information.

Carried

6. Delegations

6.1 David Heard, Resident; Re: Heritage Fund Request

David Heard presented an overview of the Dave's Vinyl Party project, an expansive, historical vinyl record archive, including its positive impact on the community, groups, and individuals; tourism potential; support of the Town's Strategic Plan related to the celebration of culture, heritage music and arts, diversity, and multiculturalism; 2026 goals; and funding request.

Moved by Rocco Morsillo

Seconded by John Green

That the comments of the delegation be received for information.

Carried

6.2 Christopher Watts, The Aurora Heritage Authority; Re: Management of Aurora's Interpretive Plaques

Christopher Watts referred to item 7.3, Plaque Wording – 10-12 Spruce Street, and expressed concerns regarding the proposed plaque wording and mounting location, and the current guidelines for interpretive plaques.

Moved by Bob McRoberts

Seconded by John Green

That the comments of the delegation be received for information.

Carried

7. Matters for Consideration

7.1 Memorandum from Manager, Parks and Fleet; Re: The Protection and Commemoration of Aurora's Oldest Trees that Hold Natural and Cultural Significance

Staff provided an overview of the memorandum and draft End-of-Life Tree Management Guide.

The Committee and staff discussed various aspects including the program's initial focus on town-owned trees; consideration of privately-owned trees; the protection of trees on designated heritage properties and criteria for previously designated heritage trees; growing trees from seeds; repurposing of heritage tree wood; the role of historical research, staff, and community resources to help identify significant trees; penalties for illegal tree removal; and plans for review and enhancement of the Town's private tree protection by-law. It was suggested that most of the trees in the pet cemetery should be protected, and that new trees not be planted too close to the road. The Committee further highlighted the need for standards and metrics, and clarity on the significance of the heritage tree designation and associated responsibilities. Staff reviewed the next steps.

The Committee expressed general support for the framework of the draft Guide and suggested an alternative name for the Guide as opposed to “End-of-Life”.

Moved by Cynthia Bettio

Seconded by Linda Durringer

1. That the memorandum regarding The Protection and Commemoration of Aurora’s Oldest Trees that Hold Natural and Cultural Significance be received; and
2. That the Heritage Advisory Committee comments regarding The Protection and Commemoration of Aurora’s Oldest Trees that Hold Natural and Cultural Significance 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-2026-01 - 15375 Yonge Street

Staff provided an overview of the memorandum and proposed alterations to facilitate the opening of a single-physician healthcare office on the designated property at 15375 Yonge Street, located within the Northeast Old Aurora Heritage Conservation District.

The Committee and staff discussed various aspects including exterior replacement materials; signage for the healthcare office; and accessibility. The Committee expressed general concern regarding the protection of heritage trees on the property, and suggested that the colour for repainting the existing painted façade should be more of a cream tone. The Committee was generally supportive of the application.

Moved by Cynthia Bettio

Seconded by Rocco Morsillo

1. That the memorandum regarding Heritage Permit Application HPA-2026-01 - 15375 Yonge Street be received; and

2. That the Heritage Advisory Committee comments regarding Heritage Permit Application HPA-2026-01 - 15375 Yonge Street be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Carried

7.3 Memorandum from Manager, Policy Planning and Heritage; Re: Plaque Wording - 10-12 Spruce Street

Staff provided an overview of the memorandum and proposed wording for a commemorative heritage plaque to be installed on the property at 10-12 Spruce Street, located within the Northeast Old Aurora Heritage Conservation District.

The Committee and staff discussed the location options and proposed plaque wording. The Committee expressed support for the draft wording with the exception of a minor grammatical revision, and further expressed support for the plaque to be either pole- or rock-mounted.

Moved by Chris Polsinelli

Seconded by Rocco Morsillo

1. That the memorandum regarding Plaque Wording - 10-12 Spruce Street be received; and
2. That the Heritage Advisory Committee comments regarding Plaque Wording - 10-12 Spruce Street be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Carried

8. Informational Items

None.

9. New Business

The Committee referred to the Victoria Hall refurbishment item on the February 10, 2026 Committee of the Whole agenda and inquired about why the matter had not been first considered by the Heritage Advisory Committee. Staff provided a response, noting that the Committee would become involved through any future

heritage permit process. The Committee expressed its concerns and preference for a potential use of Victoria Hall.

The Committee and staff discussed the ongoing efforts to improve building façades and signage of properties in the downtown core noting that, while some owners have been compliant with the rules, others have not. There was further discussion on sign permit issues and efforts to enforce the Sign By-law. Staff noted that Building enforcement is continuing to review signs in the downtown and work with owners on compliance. Staff agreed to provide updates at a future Committee meeting as they are available.

The Committee provided a status update on the planning and preparations completed for the Heritage Week celebrations starting on February 16, 2026. Staff expressed appreciation for the efforts of the working group.

The Committee expressed support for the earlier delegation and efforts of David Heard, and encouraged their further presentation to Council.

Staff advised that Parks Canada will be shutting down its Canadian Register of Historic Places website, on the basis that Parks Canada has indicated the searchable database had become technologically outdated. It was noted that staff had saved all of the Aurora property portfolio information and that various groups have made an effort to protect and share the information further.

10. **Adjournment**

Moved by Linda Durringer

Seconded by Cynthia Bettio

That the meeting be adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Carried