



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

Date: Monday, April 13, 2026
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Holland Room, Aurora Town Hall

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

Other Attendees: Mayor Tom Mrakas*
Councillor John Gallo
Councillor Ron Weese*
Kyle Stitt, Manager, Facilities
Andrea Vento, Program Manager, Facility Capital Projects
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 7:02 p.m.

The Committee consented to extend the hour to 9:15 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 Linda Durringer
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 February 9, 2026

Moved by Cynthia Bettio
Seconded by Rocco Morsillo

1. That the Heritage Advisory Committee meeting minutes of February 9, 2026, be received for information.

Carried

6. Delegations

6.1 Christopher Watts, The Aurora Heritage Authority; Re: Interpretive Plaques

Christopher Watts expressed concerns regarding the Town's guidelines and available information on interpretive plaques, noting the practices of other communities, and made suggestions for improvements.

Moved by Rocco Morsillo
Seconded by Bob McRoberts

That the comments of the delegation be received for information.

Carried

6.2 David Heard, Resident; Re: Heritage Events Report (Heritage Week)

David Heard presented a proposal and requested assistance in launching the celebration of R.A.I.L. 175, the 175th anniversary of the arrival of rail service to Aurora in 1853, to be held mid-May to mid-June 2028, and to include events such as rail-themed music and costume festivals, exhibits and merchandise, an art contest and murals, rail excursions, and an expo.

Moved by John Green

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-2026-02 - Victoria Hall (27 Mosley Street)

Staff provided a brief overview and introduced the heritage consultants, Ryan Giuricich, Project Principal, CS&P Architects; Joey Giaimo, Principal, Giaimo; and Sara Shemirani, Associate, Giaimo. The consultants presented an overview of the proposed alterations and refurbishments to Victoria Hall at 27 Mosley Street, and provided details on the site and context, building elevations, history and design, heritage attributes, exterior and interior conditions, proposed work, and potential impacts on heritage attributes.

The Committee discussed various aspects including concerns with maintaining the heritage aspects, concerns with the compatibility and size of the proposed addition, purpose of the front room, the preference to maintain the existing front entrance, accessibility, metal and glass cladding of the addition versus matching the existing brickwork, gas meter location, washroom facilities location, preservation of the existing wainscoting, buttresses and rafters, the loss of two parking spaces from the Town Square parking lot, and intention of the flexible outdoor space. The Committee noted the challenge in determining the efficacy of the

design while not knowing the end purpose and users of the building. The Committee was generally not in support of the proposed design. The consultants also provided further information on their design principles and general best practices being to maintain legibility and reversibility by designing the new addition as a product of its own time, and that a primary focus was to also make the building accessible. The consultants indicated that the proposed work had minimal levels of impact on the heritage features of the property.

Moved by Rocco Morsillo

Seconded by Linda Durringer

1. That the memorandum regarding Heritage Permit Application HPA-2026-02 - Victoria Hall (27 Mosley Street) be received; and
2. That the Heritage Advisory Committee comments regarding Heritage Permit Application HPA-2026-02 - Victoria Hall (27 Mosley Street) 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 - Revised Plans for 15375 Yonge Street

Staff provided a brief overview of the memorandum and revised plans for alterations and demolition of a rear, non-heritage garage 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 owner provided further clarification on the proposal and affirmed their commitment to maintaining the heritage features of the property.

The Committee expressed appreciation for the owner's consideration of its previous feedback and was supportive of the revised application.

Moved by Cynthia Bettio

Seconded by Bob McRoberts

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

2. That the Heritage Advisory Committee comments regarding Heritage Permit Application HPA-2026-01 - Revised Plans for 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: Summary of the 2026 Heritage Week Event

Staff provided an overview of the memorandum and expressed appreciation to all those involved in the success of the 2026 Heritage Week Event. Staff highlighted the need for more dedicated resources and collaboration to ensure the ongoing long-term success of Heritage Week and other related events, noting that the leading of special events is generally beyond the scope and function of the Heritage Advisory Committee and planning and development services staff.

The Committee and staff discussed possible ways and resources to support future Heritage Week events including the potential for Committee volunteers, sub-committees and community volunteers, possible use of the Heritage Reserve Fund and federal/provincial grant funding, and collaboration with other Town departments and partners. Consideration was given to possibly hold the event biennially if necessary, and to select a different theme for each event. Staff agreed to provide an update on any further resources and supports as they become available, and clarified that the Heritage Advisory Committee and planning/heritage staff can still participate and assist with events, but are limited in the ability to be the primary event management leads.

Moved by Cynthia Bettio

Seconded by Linda Durringer

1. That the memorandum regarding Summary of the 2026 Heritage Week Event be received; and
2. That the Heritage Advisory Committee comments regarding Summary of the 2026 Heritage Week Event 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 delegation regarding interpretive plaques and inquired about next steps. Staff provided a response noting they were open to meeting with the delegate and would consult with the Town's GIS team to build further heritage mapping as necessary, using information that is publicly available.

The Committee referred to the delegation regarding the proposed R.A.I.L. 175 celebration and discussed event management and funding options, and inquired about next steps. Staff provided a response noting that Council would need to approve any funding from the Heritage Reserve Fund through a member motion.

The Committee inquired about plans for installation of Northeast Old Aurora Heritage Conservation District street signage, and staff provided a response noting this matter was actively being explored across relevant departments and through the Town's ongoing wayfinding signage capital project.

The Committee noted that 2026 is the 20th anniversary of the Northeast Old Aurora Heritage Conservation District, which was designated in 2006.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Linda Durringer

Seconded by Cynthia Bettio

That the meeting be adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Carried