

Issue Summary Report

Information Report regarding Pelham's Heritage Advisory Committee special projects, updating of By-law, and alignment with the Town's #20150212001 Strategic Plan

Meeting : C-07-2015 - Regular Meeting of Council

Meeting Type : Regular Meeting of Council

Presenter : Terrance Glover

Section : Staff Reports of a Routine Nature for Information or Action

Meeting Date : 2015/02/17 18:30

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information regarding suggested changes to the Town of Pelham's Heritage Advisory Committee, update on special heritage projects, and alignment with the Town's 2015 Strategic Plan.

Background

1. History

The Town of Pelham's Heritage Advisory Committee was first established in 2010, and was tasked with the responsibility of offering opinion on historical matters (namely heritage properties, buildings, structures, and significant cultural events). The Advisory Committee was the sounding board for these historic and cultural matters, and provided keen insight to the Town that often went beyond the average knowledge base.

The Town of Pelham's Heritage Advisory Committee has always been represented by dedicated volunteers, many of whom are experts in their field, whose only compensation is the reward of preserving artifacts of our built and cultural heritage for the betterment of the Town and society as a whole. In this sense, the Advisory Committee remains invaluable.

2. Current Events

Currently and through the hard work of the Advisory Committee, the Town has developed a shortlist of approximately 59 (fifty-nine) potential heritage register properties and historic sites that have the possibility for inclusion on the Heritage Register. As well, there may be as many as 21 additional sites that are yet to be added to this short list. Of these shortlisted properties, only 4 (four) have been designated, mostly as a result of the lack of supporting information. Of these 4 (four) designations, 1 (one) is owned by the Town.

In order to approach private property owners to secure possible heritage listings/designations for their property/buildings or structures, supporting background information must first be developed to present a case for the listing/designation, as well as suggest the benefits of the listing/designation. To this end a comprehensive heritage study needs to be done on each of the shortlisted properties so that a case may be presented.

With the vast amount of work required to prepare supporting background information for all shortlisted properties, and the fact that the Town's Heritage Advisory Committee is volunteer based, it is unfair of the Town to expect the Advisory Committee to complete this work on their own. In addition, only 5 (five) of the 7 (seven) Committee members remain, as 2 (two) member's terms have now expired. Given the realigning of the Town Advisory Committee mandates' with the Town's 2015 Strategic Plan, as recently directed by Council, and the development of a respective Heritage Advisory Committee By-law to implement this realignment, re-appointing or otherwise filling these vacancies does not currently make sense given that the Advisory Committee maintains quorum.

Appreciating that the Advisory Committee is volunteer based and the work required is significant, the Town has allocated funds in the 2015 Capital Budget to hire a professional consultant to develop this historical background information in an expedient manner. Once completed, this information will enable the Advisory Committee to proceed with reviewing and recommending heritage listings/designations to Council.

It is in everyone's best interest to complete this work and begin the process of designating (i.e. securing) these historical and cultural sites for today's children and all future generations, before they are lost forever.

At this point, it is poignant for this Advisory Committee to take a pause, while the necessary supporting background information work is being developed, the Advisory Committee's mandate is examined, and a new Advisory Committee By-law to align with the Town's 2015 Strategic Plan is done.

Once this work is complete, Staff suggests the re-establishment of a Heritage Advisory Committee for Pelham, to continue their good work to secure heritage sites for the benefit of all.

Alternatives

N/A

Recommendation

THAT, Council **RECEIVE** this Issue Summary Report for information,