



COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

**March 5, 2014 - 6:00p.m.
Committee Room No. 2**

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Jamie McEvoy	- Chair
Councillor Betty McIntosh	- Vice Chair
John Davies	- Community Member
Wayne Janzen	- Community Member
Gavin Hainsworth	- Community Member
Robert Johnson	- Community Member
Lynn Radbourne	- Community Member
Barry White	- Community Member
Tegan Cheremkora	- Community Member
Catherine Hutson	- Heritage Preservation (arrived at 6:03 p.m.)

STAFF:

Julie Schueck	- Heritage & Community Planner
Lauren Blake	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

The agenda was amended by:

- Adding item: Restoring and Retaining of Street Bricks and Cobblestones

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of February 5, 2014

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the February 5, 2014 Community Heritage Commission meeting be adopted.

CARRIED.

All members of the Commission present voted in favour of the motion.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Demolition Inquiry – 819 Milton Street

Julie Schueck, Heritage Planner, summarized the memorandum dated March 5, 2014 regarding a Demolition Permit inquiry for the house located at 819 Milton Street. Ms. Schueck noted that the realtor for this property has contacted her with respect to the demolition process in New Westminster, and advised that an application has not yet been received at this point.

Discussion ensued and the Commission noted that the house does not appear to have significant heritage elements to retain or salvage. However, the Committee suggested that there could be heritage elements within or beneath the structure, including archaeological artefacts.

5.2 Review of Heritage Conservation (Workshop)

Julie Schueck, Heritage Planner, summarized the memorandum dated March 5, 2014 regarding a Heritage Conservation Workshop and reviewed the following documents:

- **The Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada**
- **Statement of Significance**
- **Heritage Conservation Plan**

Please see the following website for the complete Standards and Guidelines document:

<http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/pages/standards-normes.aspx>

Ms. Schueck reported that the City has adopted the Standards and Guidelines to guide heritage projects; therefore, it will be important for the Commission to be familiar with the document. The Standards and Guidelines provide results-oriented guidance, and have established a set of conservation guidelines for British Columbia.

Ms. Schueck reviewed the nine general standards for preservation, rehabilitation and restoration, as well as the statement of significance and the following information was noted:

- A statement of significance is a succinct method of expressing heritage value, including a description, the identification of heritage values and a list of character defining elements of a property.
- The identification of heritage values will explain why the property has heritage value and for whom the property has heritage value.
- There are different categories of heritage value, including: aesthetic, historic, scientific, cultural and social.
- The character defining elements of a property are the elements that contribute to its historic value, and must be retained in order for the structure to retain its heritage value.
- Character defining elements will guide the architects and owners during the rehabilitation, preservation and restoration process.
- Council and the CHC will review the character defining elements as part of an HRA application process to ensure the correct elements are being retained.

The Commission discussed the various features that contribute to the historical value of properties, including exterior and interior features. It was noted that the inclusion of interior features as a character defining element can complicate the subdivision of a living space.

The Commission reviewed an example of a statement of significance regarding the New Westminster Masonic Hall, located at 508 Agnes Street, and noted the following comments:

- It was suggested that if a time frame is specified with respect to historical significance, the document should provide information regarding why that time frame is historically significant.
- The location of the structure may have historical significance, and if so, should be included.
- Historical facts regarding the property and/or property owners should be included, if applicable. With respect to the Freemason's site, this could include the function and historical significance of Freemasonry, noting that Premiers and Prime Ministers have been members of the Freemason's.
- The character defining elements as summarized in the document were discussed.
- The retention of interior features while expanding the structure was discussed. With respect to the Freemason's application, this could include a pipe organ that is the largest and oldest pipe organ in British Columbia.

It was suggested that staff investigate the sharing of photos and documents as part of an HRA.

5.3 Retaining and Restoration of Street Bricks and Cobblestones

Wayne Janzen, Community Member, reported that the bricks on Fourth Street have been replaced by asphalt, and enquired as to the process of retaining and restoring bricks and cobblestones within the city. **Julie Schueck, Heritage Planner**, advised that bricks and cobblestones in streets could create mobility issues for individuals with physical challenges. Ms. Schueck suggested that the City could document the current inventory of brick and cobblestone streets in New Westminster. She also noted that the brick street between Royal Avenue and Queen's Avenue is listed on the Heritage Register.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 City Heritage Program – Verbal Update (Standing Item)

Julie Schueck, Heritage Planner, provided updates on the following items:

- A revised report regarding the interpretive panels from Woodlands was brought forward to Council, and will be included in the next Community Heritage Commission agenda package. Ms. Schueck advised that the number of panels has decreased from four to three, however a fourth panel of a historic image of the property may be included.
- The Queen's Park Neighbourhood Heritage Study will host an open house on March 6, 2014 in the foyer of City Hall between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
- At a City Council meeting held March 3, 2014, a grade three and four class presented Council with an art project. Ms. Schueck will investigate laminating the art to better preserve it.

6.2 Heritage Week 2014 – Verbal Update

Julie Schueck, Heritage Planner, reported that the art submitted by elementary school students based on their interpretation of the "Wait for Me, Daddy" photo for Heritage Week was judged by members of the CHC, by Councillor Williams and by the artist. Ms. Schueck noted that there were fewer participants than in previous years, and it was suggested that this could have been due to the Olympics. The winners will be announced at a Regular Council meeting on April 7, 2014.

6.3 Demolition Permits Issued

Julie Schueck, Heritage Planner, noted that the following demolition permits have been issued:

505 Fourth Street	Queen's Park
121 Carroll Street	Sapperton
244 Fenton Street	Queensborough

638 Columbia Street	Downtown
404 Ash Street (apartment)	Uptown

The Commission noted that the letters that are sent to owners of heritage homes regarding demolition are the same, regardless of the level of the Commission's interest in retaining the home. Ms. Schueck advised that she can phone the owners of the property regarding alternative options to demolition if the Commission expresses a strong interest in preserving a property.

The Commission discussed strategies regarding promoting restoration actions with respect to heritage homes and noted the following information:

- Early education is a key component, and it is important to contact home owners before they apply for a demolition permit, as they will most likely already have new construction plans.
- Home owners may be unaware of the alternative options to demolition, or may not have the vision or knowledge of the potential for restoration.
- It was suggested that a "welcome wagon" could be formed to provide new heritage home owners information regarding the history of their home and restoration options to maximize the historical elements of their home.
- It was suggested that the City and the Commission could work with local realtors to provide information regarding HRAs, and other alternative options to demolition.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 New Westminster Historical Society Newsletter, No. 405, February 2014

7.2 Vancouver Heritage Foundation Newsletter, February 2014

7.3 2103 Hamilton Street – Letter to Owner regarding Demolition

7.4 1007 Dublin Street – Letter to Owner regarding Demolition

7.5 Heritage BC Quarterly, Winter 2014

8.0 NEXT MEETING

8.1 Next Meeting Date: April 2, 2014 (in Committee Room No. 2) 6:00 p.m.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Certified Correct,


Councillor Jaime McEvoy
Chair


Lauren Blake
Committee Clerk