

MINUTES
City of Welland Heritage Advisory Committee
Wednesday June 3, 2026 at 6 p.m.
Room 108, Welland Civic Square

Present: Mary Adelle Patterson, Chair; Connie McCutcheon, Vice Chair; Tom Higginbotham, Tia DeAgazio, Rose Dzugan, Nora Reid, Secretary/Treasurer, Researcher; Greg Lipinski, Staff Liaison

1. Call to Order:

Chair Mary Adelle Patterson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Recognition of Traditional Territories

Chair Mary Adelle Patterson read the Land Acknowledgement recognizing that we meet on the traditional territories of Indigenous peoples.

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None.

4. Approval of Minutes of May 6, 2026

Correction noted: page 2 spelling error noted. Last line should read "...our Trail..." not "...out Trail..."

Moved by Rose, Dzugan, seconded by Tom Higginbotham, that the Minutes of the meeting held May 6, 2026, be approved as amended. Carried.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

Geopark Letter

Letter composed to Ian Lucaa of the Niagara Geopark thanking him for his presentation, noting that the Committee's mandate did not include providing financial support, and asking if Cook's Mills Trail can be linked to the Geopark without payment.

C. McCutcheon suggested that letter could include suggestion to follow up with City Parks Department.

Action: Secretary will revise letter and circulate to Committee before sending.

Market Square Application to Planning Department for Alterations

Greg Lipinski reported that no formal application has been received by the Planning Department for alterations to designated Market Square building as described during

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Tori Royer, Recreation Coordinator's presentation at May City of Welland Heritage Advisory Committee meeting.

Staff Report re: proposed Property Tax Relief for Designated Properties.

Staff Liaison Greg Lipinski stated that his staff report would be submitted to City Council at June 16th meeting. Grimsby, Port Colborne and St. Catharines already have this program in place. He stated that staff are not recommending this as there is money in the CIP programme being extended to all designated properties.

City Review of Terms of Reference for Subcommittees

Staff Liaison Greg Lipinski reported that the draft framework was presented to General Committee on May 26th, however the City of Welland Heritage Advisory Committee is not part of this review as it is a legislated Committee.

C. McCutcheon asked if the new framework includes having a Councillor as a member of legislated committees such as this one and noted this would be very beneficial. Chair noted that our mandate is to advise City Council but we do not currently have that direct connection. N. Reid asked if Committee's proposed new Operating Bylaw will move forward for approval after this review is done.

Action: Staff Advisor Greg Lipinski will find out if new framework includes having a City Councillor as member of legislated committees such as this one and report back to the Committee.

Downtown CIP Report

Staff Liaison Greg Lipinski reported that Building Improvement and Façade Improvement Grants of up to \$15,000.00 will be available for all properties in Welland Designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.

R. Dzugan asked whether this Committee would be reviewing the applications for alteration submitted under this programme.

Public comment period for the new Community Improvement Plan will be open the second half of June.

Properties to Research for Possible Designation

Researcher N. Reid circulated photos of top six properties for possible research. C. McCutcheon noted the CIP grants would be incentives to designate.

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Action: Researcher will determine ownership for three priority properties. Chair and Researcher will approach owners in July or August with regard to possible designation.

Action: Researcher will put together an overview of cultural heritage significance and current City incentives for top three candidates.

Heritage Map – Niagara Region Genealogical Society

Researcher N. Reid explained method for using this map and circulated it. They already have Cook's Mills battlefield National Historic Site on map. Suggest we add our sites (not private homes).

Action: members to bring suggestions re: local sites to add to this map. Researcher will contact Genealogical Society to add appropriate sites.

6. Projects Report

Plaquing Ceremony for St. Michael the Archangel Plaque

Secretary N. Reid has not received a reply from the Pastor about when the Parish would like to have a recognition ceremony.

Action: Secretary to follow up with Father Petryk with regard to a date for the ceremony.

New Member Orientation Package

Members would like something in place before a new Committee is appointed in the fall, perhaps a one-page summary. It was noted that the city gives a general orientation for new members appointed to volunteer committees. This could be used as a framework and specifics for this Committee added. Chair noted that the application process is intimidating and discourages residents from applying.

Action: Consultant N. Reid will draft a one-page summary of important points for new members and bring it back to Committee in September.

Site Signage for Designated Properties Downtown

Chair M. Patterson noted that Halifax has large, colourful and attractive non-metal (plastic?) site signage downtown for their heritage properties. N. Reid suggested that these could be placed in addition to our traditional designation signs. Rose Dzugan noted that larger signs could include some history.

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Action: Secretary will contact City of Halifax to find out more about their signs.

Property Tax Rebate for Heritage Designated Properties

Staff Liaison Greg Lipinski reported that this staff report will be going before the City Council on June 16th and staff will not be recommending a tax rebate due to the expansion of the CIP grants.

6. Other Business – New Business

77 West Main Street

The Planning Dept. received an inquiry from owners about maintenance of brickwork on this designated building. Mortar is crumbling for three rows of bricks under the front window. Repair of this (repointing mortar) is considered regular maintenance so no Application for Alteration needed.

Researcher/Consultant N. Reid forwarded to Staff Liaison G. Lipinski a summary of the proper method for repointing historic brick using sand/lime mortar and noted there are some local companies that know how to do this.

Action: Staff Liaison Greg Lipinski will forward details of proper repointing method to the owners.

Feeder Canal Junction Lock Replacement Plaque

Kirkpatrick Stoneworks has installed the replacement plaque.

National Trust Conference Waterloo Oct. 22-24

Committee feels it would be valuable for some members to attend.

Action: Secretary will forward details of Conference to Committee as they become available.

Historic Places Days

N. Reid announced that Central Fire Station will be open Saturday July 11th, Wed. July 15th, Saturday July 18th, Wed. July 22nd and Saturday July 25th during Historic Places Days.

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Doors Open

Registration is closed for this year. A member of St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church expressed the desire to see the church as part of Doors Open for Welland next year. Other possibilities include the Market, Central Fire Station and the Museum, possibly Jail Museum at Courthouse

Action: Committee will look into the possibility of registering for this in January.

Summer Meeting Schedule

No July or August meetings except for possible 2027 Budget meeting.

Action: Treasurer will contact City Finance Department to find out the deadline for submitting the Committee's 2027 proposed budget to the Department.

Treasurer's Report

T. DeAgazio suggested that internet access cost seems high. She would like to find other options. It is currently paid for the next year. C. McCutcheon suggested we find out what the City pays for internet access and who they use and if we can possibly piggyback on the City's internet.

Chair Mary Adelle noted that our Zoom package is for large meetings and we could possibly purchase a less expensive package for Zoom. T. DeAgazio suggested that we look into using the City's "owl" device for meetings instead of Zoom.

Action: Treasurer will circulate details of what is provided under current internet package. Treasurer will approach head of IT to find out if we can become part of City's internet package.

Action: Treasurer will look into less expensive Zoom package and approach head of IT with regard to becoming part of City's Zoom or equivalent programme.

Action: Staff Liaison Greg Lipinski will look into possibility of linking into the City's "owl" system for remote access to meetings.

Moved by Tom Higginbotham, seconded by Connie McCutcheon to accept the Treasurer's report as presented.

Correspondence

Secretary circulated a list of correspondence received and sent between May 5th and June 2, 2026.

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10. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn by Tom Higginbotham at 7:24 p.m. Carried.

Unapproved