



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

**Date:** Monday, December 9, 2024  
**Time:** 7 p.m.  
**Location:** Holland Room, Aurora Town Hall

**Committee Members:** Bob McRoberts, Honourary Member (Vice Chair)  
Cynthia Bettio\*  
John Green, Aurora Historical Society Representative  
David Heard  
Kevin Hughes\*  
Rocco Morsillo

**Other Attendees:** Mayor Tom Mrakas\*  
Councillor Ron Weese\*  
Adam Robb, Manager, Policy Planning and Heritage  
Linda Bottos, Council/Committee Coordinator

\*Attended electronically

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**1. Call to Order**

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 7:15 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** David Heard  
**Seconded by** John Green

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 October 7, 2024**

**Moved by** John Green  
**Seconded by** Rocco Morsillo

1. That the Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of October 7, 2024, be received for information.

**Carried**

**6. Delegations**

**6.1 Christopher Watts, The Aurora Heritage Authority; Re: The Town of Aurora's Architectural Salvage Program**

Christopher Watts presented on the Town's Architectural Salvage Program and requested clarification on the status of the program, the disposition of items from the past, and the availability of any supporting previous documentation.

**Moved by** David Heard  
**Seconded by** Rocco Morsillo

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: Draft Heritage Awards Program Guide

Staff gave an overview of the memorandum and proposed Heritage Awards Program Guide toward re-activation of the awards program.

The Committee expressed support for the proposed program and made suggestions regarding the addition of a youth award category; the addition of a potential category for the preservation/display of artefacts; a biennial heritage awards event to alternate with a potential heritage fair; and inclusion of a monetary award along with an award certificate or plaque. The Committee further recommended that the Heritage Awareness and Achievement award category for Individuals, Businesses, Groups and Organizations be split so that individuals would be able to be recognized in a separate distinct category in and of itself.

**Moved by** John Green

**Seconded by** Rocco Morsillo

1. That the memorandum regarding Draft Heritage Awards Program Guide be received; and
2. That the Heritage Advisory Committee comments regarding Draft Heritage Awards Program Guide be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

**Carried**

### 7.2 Memorandum from Manager, Policy Planning and Heritage; Re: Draft Heritage Grant Program

Staff provided an overview of the memorandum and highlighted the inclusion of previous feedback from the Committee in the development of the Draft Heritage Grant Program.

The Committee expressed support for the proposed Heritage Grant Program and tiered approach. The Committee and staff further discussed various aspects including concerns regarding the increased graffiti in Town and grant support for repetitive graffiti remediation; federal and provincial grant opportunities and sharing of information with heritage

property owners as applicable; engaging with local hardware providers for discount opportunities; best practices in other municipalities; ineligible and retroactive projects; eligible applicants/owners of multiple properties; and grant funding from the Heritage Reserve Fund.

**Moved by** Rocco Morsillo

**Seconded by** David Heard

1. That the memorandum regarding Draft Heritage Grant Program be received; and
2. That the Heritage Advisory Committee comments regarding Draft Heritage Grant Program be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

**Carried**

## **8. Informational Items**

None.

## **9. New Business**

The Committee requested an update on artefacts salvaged from 45 Tyler Street. Staff advised that artefacts are handled separately from the Salvage Program and any potentially eligible/significant pieces would be part of the separate Aurora Museum and Archives collection.

The Committee remarked on the delegate's comments about the need for an audit of Salvage Program items. Staff advised that the Heritage Advisory Committee and staff in 2017 determined that no remaining items in the program were deemed valuable for re-use and as such were disposed of, and no items have been collected since that time. With regard to future demolitions, staff further explained that the priority since 2017 has been to encourage re-use onsite, which is noted as a first priority in the Program Guide and a best practice, and that the Town can require a condition of approval to have an owner re-use any significant architectural feature as part of the new build onsite.

The Committee provided an update on the co-op student heritage research pilot project. Members were encouraged to contact Cynthia Bettio and Adam Robb if they are aware of any high school student interested in participating.

The Committee referred to the potential re-screening of the documentary film, Happy Woodland Pet Cemetery: Uncovering History, in the new year and advised that it would hopefully be viewed together with the 2015 pet cemetery documentary created by David Heard.

The Committee provided an update on Victrolia Hall, being an analog research library, and advised that the historical analog music collection, including curated pieces directly connected to Aurora, now has a new home on Vata Court and anyone interested in viewing the collection may reach out to David Heard. It was further advised that related programs will be held at the Aurora Public Library this weekend and in 2025.

The Committee expressed concerns with the current two-year term policy for committee membership and the potential loss of continuity.

The Committee inquired about the possibility of salvaging items from the planned demolition of the Sisman Shoe Company building, and commented on the significance of Sisman's history in Aurora and the need to preserve their story. Staff provided a response noting the OLT decision and potential further opportunity for review and commemoration at the site plan application stage.

The Vice Chair expressed appreciation to the Committee members for their contributions over the past two years and extended best wishes for the season.

## 10. **Adjournment**

**Moved by** David Heard

**Seconded by** Rocco Morsillo

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

**Carried**