

**HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
July 28, 2010**

PRESENT: Ms. Catherine Thibeault, Vice Chair
Ms. Susan Carroll
Mr. Arthur Irwin
Mr. Mark Archibald
Mr. Adam Conter
Ms. Carly Sorensen
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll

REGRETS: Mr. Stephen Terauds, Chair
Ms. Tori Jarvis
Mr. Paul Matthews
Ms. Lisa Miller
Councillor Jennifer Watts

STAFF: Mr. Bill Plaskett, Heritage Planner
Mr. Andy Fillmore, Project Manager, Urban Design
Ms. Sherryl Murphy, Deputy Clerk

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 3:15 p.m. by Ms. Thibeault.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 23, 2010

MOVED by Ms. Carroll, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the minutes of the June 23, 2010 meeting of the Heritage Advisory Committee be approved as distributed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

The agenda, as distributed, was approved.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES / STATUS SHEET

4.1 Business Arising

4.1.1 Potential Sale of Main Library

This matter was considered at the June 23, 2010 meeting of the Heritage Advisory Committee at which time discussion of the matter was deferred to this meeting.

MOVED by Mr. Archibald, seconded by Mr. Irwin that:

As the Halifax Memorial Library is generally regarded as a significant building in Halifax, noted for its architectural, cultural and social importance,

And where the long-term use of the building is unknown beyond its closing within a few short years,

And where Planning and Development staff have noted to this Committee that demolition of the library building is a real potential option moving forward,

And where HRM is committed to the protection and promotion of its historic architecture,

We the members of the Heritage Advisory Committee recommend to Council the following:

- 1. That HRM, immediately, without delay, consider registering the Library as a historic building.**

2. That HRM, in considering the building's future use, give preferences to the continued public use of the property.

Mr. Archibald referred to the architectural importance of the library building noting that it was unique, indicative of its time, has cultural importance due to its designation as a war memorial and has significant social history as an important civic building. He went on to note that a 2013/14 closure was fast approaching and if HRM considers the building to have importance, it should move to designate it an historic building now.

Ms. Carroll noted that the library is a memorial to fallen Second World War soldiers and in a military town, it is important that no insult be given to veterans. She asked how a memorial to fallen soldiers could be declassified.

In response to a question of clarification regarding the proposed use for the library building site, Mr. Fillmore indicated that in 2007 Council approved the Spring Garden Road/Queen Street joint public lands plan including the library site. The Plan included commercial use in order to allow the financial wherewithal to retain the public use of the property. Mr. Fillmore noted that the plan was approved prior to staff becoming aware of the deed restrictions which requires that the site be used as a library or returned to the Province.

Mr. Plaskett noted as part of the process relative the joint public lands plan he had prepared a report which included a review relative to registration of the library. Mr. Plaskett indicated that his scoring indicated the library met the requirements for registration. He further noted that the consultants report did not recommend registering the property.

In response to a question from Mr. Conter regarding the nature of the memorial designation, Mr. Fillmore indicated that the democratic public use of the library in fact is the memorial rather than the building. He went on to note that there is a very good chance that the memorial designation will be transferred to the new library.

Mr. Fillmore, responding to a question regarding the consultant's recommendation not to register the property, advised that the recommendation considered the impact relative to alteration/addition to building. In addition, the Plan proposed a complex funding formula which required some cash flow from the library site. Subsequently, the library site was not included due to the deed restrictions.

MOVED by Mr. Conter, seconded by Ms. Carroll that the motion be amended to read:

1. That HRM apply to register the Library as a historic building in a timely fashion to ensure proper consideration.

Mr. Plaskett suggested that if the Committee wishes to move in this direction, it should consider the information relative to registration which has already been prepared.

Following a further short discussion, **the motion to amend was PUT AND PASSED.**

The motion now reads:

MOVED by Mr. Archibald, seconded by Mr. Irwin that:

As the Halifax Memorial Library is generally regarded as a significant building in Halifax, noted for its architectural, cultural and social importance,

And where the long-term use of the building is unknown beyond its closing within a few short years,

And where Planning and Development staff have noted to this committee that demolition of the library building is a real potential option moving forward,

And where HRM is committed to the protection and promotion of its historic architecture,

We the members of the Heritage Advisory Committee recommend to Council the following:

- 1. That HRM apply to register the Library as a historic building in a timely fashion to ensure proper consideration.**
- 2. That HRM, in considering the building's future use, give preferences to the continued public use of the property.**

Following a further discussion it was **MOVED by Mr. Archibald, seconded by Councillor Nicholl that consideration of the motion be deferred pending receipt of additional information from staff. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

4.1.3 Potential Heritage Conservation Districts

An e-mail dated June 1, 2010 from Maggie Holm to Andy Fillmore, with an attached map entitled 'Prominent Civic Heritage and Cultural Resources', was before the Committee. Also before the Committee was correspondence dated July 7, 2010 to Joan Fancy, Tremblay Signs Limited, from Maggie Holm.

Utilizing maps provided by Mr. Fillmore, the Committee, confirmed/identified potential heritage conservation districts.

Ms. Thibault, on behalf of Mr. Terauds, stressed that the Hydrostone and Schmitville were priority areas. Ms. Thibault noted that not knowing the level of pressures on these areas, Mr. Terauds, believes that the Hydrostone has a higher priority.

Mr. Conter expressed concern that designated heritage districts would not accommodate the densification of the regional center.

Mr. Plaskett noted that a designated heritage district need only be governed by policy relating to demolition. Heritage conservation districts do allow consideration of new development and how development will relate to the district. A heritage district conservation by-law for a district would set out the parameters for development.

Ms. Miller Lisa noted that downtown Dartmouth is experiencing significant development and some conservation of the historic buildings is required.

The South Barrington (Morris/Barrington) is an area which has been changing and should be considered. In addition the streetscape along Robie, from Coburg Road to University Avenue, should also be considered.

Mr. Plaskett noted that underpinning any heritage districts is a cohesiveness of architecture, neighbourhood, etc.

Mr. Fillmore indicated that Council would make the final decision regarding heritage districts and thanked the Committee for their input.

4.2 Status Sheet – None

5. DEFERRED ITEMS – None

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence – None

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3 Presentations – None

**6.4 Updates from HAC Members - HRM Committees and HAC Sub-committees-
None**

7. REPORTS

7.1 Staff – None

7.2 Committee Members - None

8. ADDED ITEMS

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - August 25, 2010

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Sherryll Murphy, Deputy Clerk

INFORMATION ITEMS

Heritage Property Letters