

MINUTES

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE

ZOOM

JANUARY 14, 2026

5:00 p.m. The meeting convened.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Harrison Cole
Ryan Belanger
Tino Clarke
Russell Schnurr
Steven McLarty-Payson
Nicholas Nestico
Jennifer Childs

City Officials

Sherry Steadman, Legislative Services Coordinator
Michelle Knieriem, Manager of Planning Services
Kevin McClure, Planner

Absent:

Councillor Rymal
David Goodwin

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Harrison Cole declared a pecuniary interest relating to the Elgin County Railway Museum (ECRM) as he is a member of their board and refrained from all discussion and action relating to the matter.

MINUTES

Motion by R. Schnurr - J. Childs:

THAT: The minutes of the meeting held on November 12th, 2025, be confirmed.

Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Heritage alteration Permit - HAP-01-26 423 Talbot Street

Bassel Azzam, Applicant provided an overview of the Heritage Alteration Permit.

Motion by R. Schnurr - T. Clarke:

THAT: The Municipal Heritage Committee recommends the issuance of a Heritage Alteration Permit for 423 Talbot Street relating to Application HAP-01-26.

Carried.

OP & Zoning By-law Amendment 57, 59, 65, and 75 Walnut Street

Barbara Rosser, Planning Consultant provided an overview of the OP & Zoning By-law Amendment for 57, 59, 65, and 75 Walnut Street. She further advised that once the project goes to Site Plan it would come back to the Old St. Thomas Church and the Municipal Heritage Committee.

The members inquired about vibration, how it is measured and how often it is measured.

D. Lyle, Engineer advised that there was an assessment made to find a baseline condition and that vibration is monitored daily in real time and is on-going.

The members enquired about the 1.2m high iron fence at the west side of the property.

CONFIRMED _____ CHAIRMAN

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Mr. Lyle advised that the perimeter fencing is typically considered at Site Plan, that the developer would be flexible, and the fence would likely go around the easement.

St. Thomas Cemetery Company

S. McLarty-Payson provided a brief overview of the history of the St Thomas Cemetery Company.

The members discussed the possibility of recommending that the cemetery be heritage designated and that research could be undertaken to consider designating the entire property, or parts such as the mausoleum.

The Chair advised that he would do some research and provide an update at the next meeting.

Elgin County Railway Museum (ECRM)

Russell Schnurr assumed the Chair for this portion of the meeting.

Wil Zufelt, CEO, Elgin County Railway Museum provided an update on the recent closure of the building.

The members inquired about the building concerns that led to the closure and the potential remediation costs.

Mr. Zufelt advised that operations at the Museum were suspended on January 7 after an inspection and notice were received by the City's Chief Building Official. He further advised that some areas of the building had already been closed to the public, that a structural engineer has been hired and that the Museum has until March 31, 2026, to provide a structural engineer's report to the City.

Mr. Zufelt advised that costs to address the structural concerns in some of the roof area and some walls is unknown at this time and that a satisfactory structural engineer's report is required to reopen the building.

The members discussed any potential support mechanisms to assist the museum.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Home Insurance

Harrison Cole resumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

The Chair advised that he should have an update for the next meeting regarding the intent to create a package to share with homeowners including documents from The Ministry of Culture and Tourism and a local insurance provider that helps to explain that designations should not impact home insurance costs.

Procedural Update

The Legislative Services Coordinator advised that Councillor Rymal would be filling in the Council member vacancy on the committee and that she had a prior engagement but would attend the next meeting.

The Legislative Services Coordinator advised that any topics to be added to an agenda are required to be forwarded to the Chair by the Tuesday the week before the meeting.

NEXT MEETING

February 11th, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

5:45p.m. The meeting adjourned.

CONFIRMED _____ CHAIRMAN