

OIL HERITAGE CONSERVATION DISTRICT STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 15, 2008, 1:00 pm
Oil Museum of Canada

Present: Robert Tremain, Duncan McTavish, Christine Poland, Gord Perry, Dave Posliff, April James, Charles Fairbank, Connie Bell, Betty Lou Snetselaar, Terrie Dewsbury, John Dickson, Robert Cochrane and Dawn Marie Gates.

Regrets: Ruth Kernohan, Martin Dillon, Charles Fisher, Mary-Pat Gleeson and Elizabeth LeBlanc, Parks Canada.

Also Present: Tamara Anson-Cartwright, Ministry of Culture (Advisor), Darren Winger, Ministry of Culture (Windsor), Dr. Christopher Andreae, Historica Research Limited, Wendy Shearer and Harry Shnider, MHBC Planning and Peter Stewart, George Robb Architect.

NOTE: "Action Items" are shown in the minutes in **bold** type.

Robert T. welcomed the new attendees to the meeting. He explained the funding that had been received to date; the successful up-delegation from the local municipalities; private/corporate partnerships and the success committee has had to date.

1. Previous Minutes
The July 22, 2008 minutes were reviewed. No errors or omissions were noted.
2. Review of Action Items from July 22, 2008 Minutes

Plaque Designation

Gord informed committee that the selection of wording is ongoing.

Charles F. spoke on the "name" of this project and asked members to give it some thought for the next meeting.

Vision Statement

Robert T. indicated that he has reworked the statement but felt due to the workload for the meeting today that he will hold it over to the next meeting.

Matrix

Robert T. stated that the sub-committee has been involved in other work but it will be pursued in 2009.

RFP

Dave informed committee that this has been completed.

UNESCO Convention

Tamara has forwarded pamphlets from the convention that she attended in Quebec in June.

3. Protecting Spirit of the Place Collaborative Display

Tamara distributed copies of this display that was presented at the Assembly of Nations. She explained the three sites mentioned and how they were chosen to be shown on the display. Discussion took place regarding protecting an industrialized working site. Tamara indicated that the County of Lambton had partnered with the Ministry to produce the display and expressed her thanks.

Robert T. suggested the display could be brought to Lambton in order to be presented at County Council. Charles F. thanked Tamara for all her work designing the display. He commented on how many different identities were present at the Assembly and how many contacts were made. Robert C. stated he is satisfied that the technical issues are being met for Lambton. Tamara informed committee that the next meeting of the General Assembly will be in Iran in 2011.

4. Ministry HD Seminar

Robert T. attended a seminar that was presented by the Ministry in Chatham. The focus was the implementation of heritage districts in Canada. The main ideas from this meeting were the size of the area (ie. North Buxton is too large an area); the need for good familiarization with the steering committee before the public meetings are held; ensure designated resources in Lambton are on a heritage register and taking advantage of historical place opportunities.

5. Report from ad hoc Selection Committee

Dave outlined the steps which have taken place since the July 22, 2008 meeting:

- RFP prepared and issued on September 11, 2008
- only one submission received, which came in at a higher price
- meeting on November 14, 2008 in order to look at cutting costs without affecting the quality of the project
- joint conclusion was reached that the price could not be reduced without cutting significant components. It was decided that the heritage & tourism components can be earmarked as possibly being removed if necessary at a later date.

6. Project Overview, Tasks and Timeline

W. Shearer told committee that she was thrilled to work on the project with the County and C. Andreae and noted that there is lots of experience combined. She has worked on 16 Heritage District studies and is bringing an appreciation to develop a plan with something that is still on-going. She feels that there is a need to conserve the daily activities and there are two resources to be focused on in the initial phase of work – the Oil Springs area and the Petrolia Town site. She distributed photos on these two areas.

She wants to focus on unique rural challenges for the Oil Springs site when conditions are better in the spring. They are going to use an overview thematic approach with the Petrolia site and will work on this during the winter months.

She asked committee two questions: how do they schedule the work and how to define a potential district boundary? She indicated the second question is a huge and very important job. She feels that it can be done by defining the resource itself by items such as physical boundaries, legal surveys, incorporation of municipalities and land ownership. They will start with the work that has already been done on the national designation.

In their proposal they listed their suggested schedule:

- 1) start with this meeting to speak with the committee
- 2) undertake background research and field work. C. Andreae will put together a narrative of the importance of the discovery and production of oil. She is working with the planning department to develop planning policies.
- 3) hold a public meeting which will have two objectives: a chance to explain what they are doing with this project and to hear from the public about their concerns in order to gain acceptance for the project in order for it to succeed.
- 4) how to manage change in the district in order to guide new development and also protect existing districts. Guidelines will be developed to help with these issues.
- 5) hold a second public meeting where the boundaries should be completed as well as the developed management plans and guidelines.

She feels that by the end of the second meeting she should have a sense of community support and issues. After this it will be sent to the committee for approval to that point. Betty Lou asked what parts of Petrolia will be examined and indicated that while Crescent Park is not oil related it is strictly Victorian.

Christopher A. replied that they would be looking at all resources in Petrolia to see what areas represent the social and economic sides of this

area. Wendy S. stated that a chronology will be developed in order to identify the values that these areas would have. Gord P. asked how far and fast should this go? He feels that it is important to focus on the concentrated area and not get mired down with too large an area. Committee has to keep sight of the vision.

April feels that defining the boundary is important. A registry of Sites of Historical Interest must be developed for this project and asked who would be doing that. Wendy replied that they will be doing this and it will be incorporated into GIS for cultural mapping.

Tamara stated that she has a stack of material that can help the team with developing resources. She questioned whether a task force should be formed to help with the research side of this as she wouldn't like to see the team's time wasted with duplication. **Tamara will pass this material along to Wendy.**

John wondered which method would be most effective – continuous public input versus public meetings. This could be done by linked websites, e-mail, etc.

Wendy asked if there has been a Public Announcement release done yet. She feels it should be done in order to inform the public what is going on in order to avoid confrontations with the public at a later date. This would also help get the message out. It was suggested that Darlene Coke, Communications and Marketing Coordinator, County of Lambton, could assist.

Robert T. stated that the digital resource list should be on the County website, possibly under the Planning Department? Discussion took place regarding a website being developed that is devoted to this project. It was felt that it shouldn't be buried in the County website as it needs to be easily accessible and use flow-thru links for the public to find. It should also be fairly reasonable in price. Gord stated that he already has one set up.

Gord asked if neighbouring oil producers have expressed an interest in joining in this project and if they haven't, should they be invited? Charles F. stated that they haven't been asked nor have offered to become involved. Christopher feels that a pool outline should be used to determine the extent of the boundary. He indicated that the pool is a very small area, approximately 600 acres. **Oil Springs has a map in their office and will forward a copy to Wendy.**

Darren W. cautioned committee that before the public meeting is held they ensure they have all the answers to the public's concerns and the

landowner's concerns about what will be happening to their lands. Wendy asked what would be better – a specific stakeholders meeting or a specific public meeting? Darren replied that a stakeholders meeting should be held first.

Robert T. indicated that he will send a copy of the agreement to the members and will also speak to Darlene Coke regarding a public release.

Wendy asked what the name of the committee is and was informed that it is Oil Heritage Conservation District Study. She then asked Charles F. what he feels is the biggest threat to the oil fields. He replied they are:

- a) the Ministry of Natural Resources
- b) people's indifference
- c) economics – the price of the end product
- d) decline of the resource

He added that the last two items are not predictable.

Tamara asked what the importance of the Village of Oil Springs is, as it relates to the historic oil fields. Gord replied that it has two designated buildings already and possibly two or three more that they are currently working on.

Tamara explained the purpose of the Heritage Register to the committee and indicated that she will circulate the specifics. Wendy stated that their thought was that they would initially include Oil Springs in the study area. Tamara stressed the importance of keeping persons who are property owners in the field of study updated.

Wendy asked if there are any looming plans for development or drastic changes in any of the area that they should be aware of. Gord replied there wasn't other than the Old Mill Trail that is being developed along the Oil Museum property. He explained that the ultimate goal of this is integration with the County trail system and tourism.

Wendy stated that a public meeting is a very important first step for the committee and asked if any members have any material they feel the team might need. If so, please forward them to Robert T. and he will get them to her.

Wendy indicated that their proposal has laid out the steps to be taken and in light of the discussion, committee might want to revisit the timing of the second public meeting in order that they are fully prepared for the public's questions and concerns. This should take place after a meeting of the Steering Committee that is scheduled for the last week in February 2009.

7. Parks Canada

Gord stated that Elizabeth LeBlanc was not able to attend the meeting. He updated committee on the plan for new plaque at the Oil Museum and placing another one on the Charles Fairbank property. He indicated that the concern is the wording on it as he feels it must designate "who we are forever". He also wants to acknowledge the first commercial oil well in Canada. He will meet again with Elizabeth LeBlanc and will also extend an invitation to her to attend the next meeting. **It was decided that Charles F., Robert T. and Gord will form a sub-committee to deal with the wording.**

8. Other Business

None.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be at the call of the chair.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.