

OIL HERITAGE CONSERVATION DISTRICT STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 11, 2009, 4:30 pm
Oil Springs Youth Centre

Present: Robert Tremain (Chair), Dave Posliff, Charles Fairbank, Robert Cochrane, Christine Poland, Connie Bell, John Dickson, Ruth Kernohan, Duncan McTavish, Gordon Perry, April James, Terrie Dewsbury, Dawn Marie Gates.

Regrets: Martin Dillon, Mary-Pat Gleeson, Charles Fisher, Betty Lou Snetselaar.

Also present: Darlene Coke, County of Lambton, Meaghan Nelligan, Oil Museum, Paul King, Ministry of Culture, Darren Winger, Ministry of Culture (Windsor), Christopher Andrae, Golder Associates, Wendy Shearer, MHBC Planning and Peter Stewart, George Robb Architect.

NOTE: Action items are shown in **bold** type.

Robert T. called the meeting to order at 4:40 pm, and welcomed those in attendance.

He introduced Darlene Coke, Communications and Marketing Coordinator, County of Lambton.

1. Previous Minutes

The February 24, 2009 minutes were reviewed. No errors or omissions were noted. **Robert T. asked that the pages be numbered for future minutes.**

2. Review of Action Items from February 24, 2009 minutes:

Dave spoke on the format of the public meeting. He will be responsible for the welcome and introduction to the public and will explain the process that has led up to the public meeting. He will then introduce Wendy S., MHBC Planning who will start the presentation, which will take approximately 40 minutes. Dave will then point out the members of the steering committee and then open the meeting up for questions from the public.

Robert T. inquired about notice for the public meeting and Dave P. replied that Heritage Designation requires one statutory meeting but

this meeting isn't it. The statutory meeting will come later in the process.

There were no other comments from the Committee.

3. County Website

Dave explained the items that will be displayed on the County of Lambton website for this project. It will contain resource material, the power point presentation, updates and information for the public to view. **He will be meeting with Darlene Coke and staff from the County Information Technology department to develop this.**

4. Funding - National Historic Sites

G. Perry stated that he has attempted to contact a representative from Parks Canada but it is difficult due to their workload. He has spoke with Ron Dale, Parks Canada, and has arranged a meeting and tour of the Oil Springs area with him for this week.

He has also spoke with staff from Heritage Canada Trust to attempt to track available funding. This is still in the early stages but he is hopeful that this will become available. He is also attempting to arrange for advertising in the Heritage Canada National magazine.

Robert T. announced that there is a cost sharing fund containing \$20M that has been made available for the funding of heritage projects. It has been decided that the committee will not apply for funding at this stage but it might be useful in the future once the project progresses and we have a better understanding of our needs.

A discussion took place regarding funding - deadlines, availability, etc.

5. Public Meeting

Dave asked if any members have been contacted by the public regarding tonight's meeting. Christine P. stated that she had received some comments from local oil producers who have some concerns. She asked if paper & pens could be made available at the meeting in order that persons could write down their concerns or questions if they do not wish to speak in the public setting.

Wendy S. reviewed her presentation with the members. She outlined the progress made to date - research & its significance, preliminary findings and significant values in the area. It is titled The Oil Heritage District - A Working Industrial Cultural Landscape in a Rural Setting. She then outlined the three boundary plan presentation boards that they have prepared for this evening.

Peter S. informed committee that he has completed a 17 minute video presentation that contains interviews with mayors of other municipalities that have had areas with heritage designations in their communities. It was felt that this would be of great benefit to the public regarding concerns. **It was decided that this could be played on a laptop during the public meeting and a copy made available for viewing at a later date.**

Committee decided to review the presentation during dinner and determine where it will be placed on the schedule for the open house portion of the meeting.

Dave P. stated that the purpose of tonight's meeting is to invite comments from the public to help guide the committee. When introducing the start of the meeting he will announce the organizations that have been involved in this process to date. Wendy S. stated that it is important to let the public know, as part of the heritage designation process, that in the future a committee will be formed that will consist of people from this area that will be making the decisions locally. Dave P. will include this in his introduction.

Ruth K. asked if the presentation will address owners concerns about what can and cannot be done on their property. Wendy S. stated that she feels the presentation will as she has dealt with this many times in past projects. Peter indicated that he has a slide in his presentation - "Commonly Asked Questions" that he feels might also help with concerns from property owners regarding heritage designation.

Gord P. feels there could be concerns with establishing the property boundaries and asked if these could be moved if owners do not want to be included. Wendy S. outlined the three different potential boundaries: oil resource boundary, lotting patterns and contributing and sequential heritage area boundary, and stated that these have to be defensible. She informed committee of a new item in the heritage legislation that deals with properties located adjacent to designated properties.

Duncan Mc. wants to ensure that all the concerns from the public that are presented tonight will be noted and dealt with in order to ensure property owners feel they are being heard and consulted with. Dave P. stated that he will ensure this occurs. Christine P. asked what will happen to the process if a property owner refuses to have their property designated if it falls within the heritage boundary. Duncan Mc. feels that they should be informed that their concerns will be addressed and that refusals may not be an option in the end. Properties may be included whether they want to be or not.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be June 16, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. at the Oil Museum of Canada.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30.