



The members of the NOTL Canada Sesquicentennial Committee met on January 10, 2017 in the Penner Room at the NOTL Community Centre at 10:00 am.

PRESENT: Bill Cowie, Rick Meloen, Richard Coyne, Tony Chisholm, John Mather, Bill French, Janice Thompson, Lord Mayor Pat Darte, Cheryl Morris, Sarah Bowers, Peter Martin, Maurice Pam, Mona Babin, Mario Iazzo, Sheldon Randall, Cam Lang

Guests/First-time attendees: Councillor Jim Collard, Victoria Steele, Rick Gallant, Kevin Turcotte, Vicky Downes, Michelle Tonego, Cate Mee, Wes Turner

REGRETS: Tim Jennings, Clare Cameron, Terry Flynn, Sarah Kaufman, Amanda Gamble.

Co-Chair Rick Meloen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

Richard Coyne declared a conflict of interest as his wife has submitted a request for funding from the Committee.

MATTERS FROM MINUTES:

Cheryl Morris reported that the Transfer Payment Agreement will go before Council January 16 to approve a by-law to enable the Lord Mayor and Town Clerk to sign. Once the TPA is signed, funds from the Ontario 150 Secretariat will be available for the Committee.

DELEGATIONS:

Councillor Jim Collard

MINUTES of December 13, 2016 meeting approved by John Mather and all.

AGENDA for January 10, 2017 approved by Richard Coyne and all.

Meeting started with introductions of first-time and all attendees.

PRESENTATIONS:

Councillor Jim Collard presented the Active Transportation Advisory (ATA) Committee mission is to connect all NOTL villages through non-vehicular means: bicycle, walking, running.

- Rick Gallant asked if the ATA Committee is working to ensure safe trails for walkers and runners and to keep bikes away. **CORRECTION TO QUESTION (FEB 8):** where a shared trail paralleled a roadway, such as the Niagara Parkway, could a by-law be passed barring cyclists from using the roadway. This would force the cyclists to use the trail and promote safety on the road.
- Rick Meloen mentioned the Legacy project adopted by the Canada150 Committee is to improve awareness and eventual rehabilitation of the Upper Canada Heritage Trail (UCHT).
- Sheldon Randall mentioned that the first step of the Legacy project/UCHT will be to heighten awareness of the trail, erect better signage and make basic improvements (gravel surfaces)
- Councillor Collard sees no conflict with this project, but ATA Committee is focused on the Creek Road trail as it is not disruptive to farmers, the Region is supportive and there is a new Provincial program to support trails in Ontario
http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/sport/recreation/trail_strategy.shtml

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) **New Year's Eve:** Cheryl Morris reported on the NYE street party at the cenotaph.
- Approximately 400 people attended, half of these from the St Andrews dance in the Courthouse. The band Berger Blake Gould pleased the audience, sparklers, flags and buttons were handed out to the crowd by volunteers, the Lord Mayor spoke of the accomplishments in 2016 and what was looking to be an exciting 2017. The town crier made a proclamation and led the countdown with ringing bell.
 - According to Sheldon Randall, no complaints about the event were received from residents.
- b) **Finance:** Tony Chisholm reported that a new budget for Town funds will be sent in shortly, and the Committee was awaiting Ontario 150 funds. No status update on any of the additional grant applications submitted.
- c) **Legacy:** Bill Cowie led the discussion.
- Groundswell of support is anticipated by residents.
 - Janice Thompson mentioned that the equestrian group uses the trail. Cam Lang said he has involved them in conversations and they are on board.
 - Kevin Turcotte reported that the Town will be clearing out old ash trees this year.
 - Cate Mee said the wash-out area needs major improvement. Rick mentioned that the Legacy project will take several years and will progress in stages.
 - Lord Mayor reported that a group will meet in the next month to discuss ideas and what may be possible to accomplish in the near future.
 - Sheldon reported that no documentation can be found that states that the Region agreed to turn over the trail land to the Town, but the abovementioned group will look into it.
 - Cam says the signage will be a great first step. Sponsorship/fundraising will be considered to augment any help the Town can provide and funds from a federal grant his association has applied for.
- d) **Communications:** Bill French led conversation which mainly focused on flags.
- Rick reported he has ordered several flags, some with the NOTL 150 logo, some with the Canada 150 logo. He expects delivery before Jan 24.
 - Janice said the issue of flags flying on Queen St/near the cenotaph is to discourage precedent-setting of organizations in town who want to display non-heritage, marketing/event banners. However, there were exemptions made for the War of 1812 and the Communities in Bloom flags, and she sees no reason why the Canada 150 flags would not receive the same exemption. She recommends that we notify the Legion, unless we decide not to fly flags near the cenotaph.
 - Janice offered the Committee a booth for the Ice Wine Festival (Jan 28/29).
- e) **Canada Day weekend:** Rick Meloen
- Lord Mayor suggested local restaurants and perhaps other groups (e.g. White Oaks) be invited to participate in the June 30 Virgil event.
 - Bill Cowie will discuss further with the VBA about their participation.
- f) **225th Anniversary:** Cheryl Morris
- Suggested invitation list was provided by Ryan Donnelly (Wayne Gates' office). Additional names will be discussed at next meeting of Committee.
 - An invitation was created to be mailed to dignitaries, and will be sent as soon as invitation list is finalized.
 - Mona Babin suggested we invite MPPs who would not have to travel long distances.
- g) **Sponsorship:** Bill Cowie is taking on the Chair role instead of Tony Chisholm.
- Bill mentioned he has drafted details of what could be offered to potential sponsors. He will start to gather a list of those individuals/businesses.

h) **Education:** no report.

i) **Logistics:** no report

NEW BUSINESS:

- New subcommittees and chairs in place:
 - **Tall Ships/Dock** (Tony Chisholm). Sheldon mentioned the contract with Rendezvous 2017 was ratified by Council and he will sign the contract by January 16. He also said the parking lot across the street from the temporary dock will be hard-surfaced, and asks the Committee to help publicize that fact. Tony said the event will be hugely popular, bring a lot of attention to the area and perhaps lead to having a permanent dock installed. A Sail-Past event has been suggested (no cost to Committee).
 - **Confederation Celebration** (Sarah Bowers). A meeting of the subcommittee will be held Jan 13 where all are invited. Interviews for the Writer/Director and Production Manager will happen Jan 12/13. Rick is investigating purchasing the mobile stage. Lord Mayor and Peter Martin can help with this.
 - **Snowbirds (Bill Cowie)**. Event is now going to happen on Sept 20. The total cost to the Committee/Town will be approximately \$18,000, mainly for accommodations and car rental for the crew.
- Peter Martin reported on the Canada 150 ICEtravaganza at the new rink at Fort George on Jan 7th. Approx 600 people attended and by all accounts it was a very successful event.
- Rick suggests that Wes Turner present Canada 150 at the Heritage Council (April?).

Meeting ended at 11:20 a.m.

Next meeting: 10:00 a.m. Tuesday January 24 in Penner Room, NOTL Community Centre.