REPORT 10-003

HAMILTON MUNICIPAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 16, 2010
12:00 p.m., Room 264
Hamilton City Hall, 2nd Floor
71 Main Street West, Hamilton

Present:
A. French (Chair)
A. Denham-Robinson (Vice Chair)
Councillor M. Pearson
M. Adkins, A. Charlton, M. Kirk, S. Nowak, R. Simpson,
S. Stewart-Greene, K. Wakeman, S. Wray and G. Zajac

Absent with
Regrets:
Councillor L. Ferguson and B. McHattie

Also Present:
P. Mallard, Director of Planning
D. Cuming, Senior Project Manager, Heritage and Urban
Design
M. House, Cultural Heritage Planner
J. Muller, Cultural Heritage Planner
Y. Mantsvetov, Assistant Cultural Heritage Planner –
Student
A. Grozelle, C. Newman, Legislative Assistants, City Clerk’s
Office

THE HAMILTON MUNICIPAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 10-
003 TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE AND RESPECTFULLY ADVISES AND
REQUESTS:

1. Erland Lee Home and Museum Report (Added Item 8.6)

   That the Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee be authorized to
   send a letter to the Federated Women’s Institutes of Ontario
   requesting further details regarding the closure of the Erland Lee
   Museum Home 522 Ridge Road, Stoney Creek, Ontario and the
future plans regarding this location deemed to be a Historic Site under the Ontario Heritage Act and a National Historic Site.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:

DISCUSSION ITEMS

(f) Erland Lee Home and Museum Report (Added Item 8.6)

Kathy Wakeman provided an update on the Erland Lee Home and Museum regarding the notice of closure she had been made aware of for December 21, 2010. Her points included but were not limited to the following;

- The Erland Lee Home has been closed indefinitely
- She has been attempting to contact the curator but their email has been disconnected and phone calls have not been answered.
- Indicated that the Federated Women’s Institute of Ontario (FWIO) who owns the museum no longer sees the museum in its future plans.
- The building is older than the Battle of Stoney Creek and she is worried about its long term preservation.
- Feels that politicians need to know about the state of the museum and its future.

Committee members inquired about the following;

Councillor Pearson indicated that she is concerned by this information and concerned that the FWIO would be involved in this. She suggested that the Committee consider involving Anna Bradford to see if she could work to find out the FWIO’s strategic direction in this matter.

Chair French indicated that he had met unofficially with the FWIO and felt that Ms. Wakeman’s presentation was accurate in indicating the FWIO does not see the museum in its future plans. He also indicated that Councillor B. Johnson will be meeting with the FWIO on this issue.
Alissa Denham-Robinson stated that the building is a heritage building and a federal historical site which allows it a great deal of protection.

Ms. Wakeman stated that the City has artefacts/historical items stored in the building. Ms. Wakeman indicated that she has sent correspondence on how the items can be retrieved, but has yet to receive a response.

Ms. Denham-Robinson stated that she did not understand the museum closing. To the best of her knowledge the museum operated in the black and had an established trust fund to pay for repairs to the building.

David Cuming indicated that the FWIO may not want to be in the museum business. Due to the state of flux it is necessary to get a grasp on what is happening with the location and suggested that if it is allowed to fall through the cracks, demolition could be a possibility. Mr. Cuming suggested that the Committee may want to correspond with the FWIO on their intentions moving forward with the museum.

Mr. Cuming suggested that the location may become a private residence once again.

Chair French stated for clarification that the title on the property indicates that if sold the property has to go to a “like minded organization.”

On a Motion (Wakeman/Adkins) Committee approved the recommendations as outlined in Item 1 of this Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Art French, Chair
Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee

Andy Grozelle
Legislative Assistant
Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee
Thursday, December 16, 2010