



MINUTES

**NANAIMO COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION (NCHC)
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2013-FEB-06 AT 5:00 PM
BOARD ROOM, SERVICE & RESOURCE CENTRE (411 DUNSMUIR STREET)**

Members Present: Diane Brennan, Chair
Bill Gard
Kerrie Low
Christine Meutzner

Jill Stannard
John Hofman
Charlene Riches
John Manning
Loyd Sherry

Members Absent: Geraldine Manson

Staff Present: Chris Sholberg, Heritage Planner

Rebecca Tubbs, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

Chair D. Brennan called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

The agenda was approved as presented with the addition of the following late items:

- a) Application for Heritage Façade Grant and Heritage Tax Exemption (223 Commercial Street):
Staff introduced the applicant (Mr. Bob Wall) who attended the meeting on behalf of the owner of 223 Commercial Street to present applications for a Heritage Façade Grant and Heritage Tax Exemption. The building will receive a new brick façade, significant building code and seismic upgrades, and an addition of a third floor. The main floor will be used as a retail/web design company space. The estimated cost for rehabilitation/alteration is \$962,709, plus an additional \$1,024,529 will be expended on tenant improvements (primarily on the building interior). Staff noted that in 2003, the property received a \$5,100 grant to support the placement of a new awning and banners on the building's exterior.

D. Brennan thanked Mr. Wall for attending before he excused himself from the meeting at 5:33 pm.

J. Hofman abstained from voting on matters related to 223 Commercial Street.

- Application Consideration for 223 Commercial Street - Heritage Façade Grant:

The Commission discussed the merits of the application and made the following motion:

It was moved and seconded that the Heritage Commission supports a \$10,000 Heritage Façade Grant for the Free Press Building (223 Commercial Street) and recommends that Council approve the grant. The motion was carried.
(Opposed: L. Sherry)

- Application Consideration for 223 Commercial Street - Heritage Tax Exemption:

The Commission expressed concern that the tax value increase of the land after the proposed alterations would be substantial and result in an overly large monetary exemption proportioned to the private investment. The Commission discussed the merits of the application and made the following motion:

It was moved that the Heritage Commission support a 10-year tax freeze for the Free Press Building (223 Commercial Street) and recommends that Council approve the exemption. The motion was defeated.

It was moved and seconded that the Heritage Commission supports a five-year Heritage Tax Exemption for the Free Press Building (223 Commercial Street) and recommends that Council approve the exemption. The motion was carried.
(Opposed: L. Sherry, C. Riches)

b) Archaeological Survey Requested for Colliery Dams:

C. Meutzner noted that the Archaeological Society of BC (Nanaimo Branch) sent a letter to Council (dated 2012-DEC-21) requesting that an archaeological inventory and impact assessment be completed within the Colliery Dam Park due to possible remains being located on site. She explained that the historical information provided in the request related to the pest house was incorrect, so she has sent the correct information to Council.

C. Meutzner & J. Stannard excused themselves from the meeting at 6:04 pm.

3. Adoption of Minutes (2013-JAN-02)

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes from 2013-JAN-02 be adopted as presented. The motion was carried.

4. Correspondence, Periodicals, & Newsletters

a) Arts Council Newsletter:
For information.

b) Friends of Morden Mine Newsletter:
For information.

The above correspondence was received as presented.

5. New Business

a) Heritage Awards (Ceremony to be held 2013-MAY-22):

Staff provided background information and a timeline for the upcoming 2013 Committee Awards. The Commission sponsors two types of awards: 1) one John Thomson Heritage Memorial Award (by public nomination for lifetime heritage achievement); and 2) Heritage Rehabilitation Awards (by staff nomination based on recent building rehab projects). Advertising will begin in February and nominations will be accepted until 2013-MAR-29.

b) Scout Hut (445 Comox Road) Rehabilitation Project:

Staff has been in discussion with the Nanaimo Scouts, owners of the Scout Hut, regarding the need to replace the building's roof and repair its porch. They have some money to complete the repairs, but require financial assistance. The Parks Department has offered to partner with the Nanaimo Scouts in order to complete the required work, as the hut is located on City-owned parkland.

6. Ongoing Business

a) Heritage Summit (2013-FEB-20):

For information. The Summit will be held 2013-FEB-20 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Nanaimo Museum. Commission members were encouraged to attend.

b) Heritage Register Update – Status:

Staff has sent notification letters to owners to inform them that their building has been nominated for addition to the heritage register. Once responses have been received, a report will go to Council for approval.

- c) Connaught Barracks Stable (aka Judo Club Building) - Reconsideration for addition to Heritage Register:
Deferred until next meeting when J. Stannard is in attendance.
- d) Newcastle Island Historic Site Nomination – Update:
For information. The Newcastle Island Pavilion Society is pursuing an application for Newcastle Island to be granted historic site status by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. Staff will provide more information as it becomes available.

7. Committee Reports

- a) Snuneymuxw First Nation:
G. Manson was not in attendance.
- b) Nanaimo Community Archives Society:
C. Meutzner was not in attendance.
- c) Nanaimo District and Museum:
J. Manning had nothing to report of a heritage-related matter.
- d) Design Advisory Panel:
C. Riches had nothing to report of a heritage-related matter.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 2013-MAR-06 at 5:00 pm in the Board Room of the Service and Resource Centre (411 Dunsmuir Street).

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.

APPROVED

Chair

Date