



**MINUTES**  
**NANAIMO COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION**  
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2011-SEP-07 AT 5:00 PM**  
**CITY HALL BOARD ROOM (455 WALLACE STREET)**

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**Present:** William E. Gard, Chair  
Joan Perry  
Lloyd Sherry  
Karen Hovestad  
Jill Stannard  
Charlene Riches  
Christine Meutzner

**Staff:** Chris Sholberg, Heritage Planner  
Rebecca Tubbs, Recording Secretary

**Regrets:** John Hofman  
John Manning  
Geraldine Manson

**Guests:** Sydney Robertson, Owner of 167 Irwin Street

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**1. Call to Order**

Chair W.E. Gard called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

**2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items**

The agenda was approved as presented.

**3. Adoption of Minutes (2011-JUN-08)**

MOVED by C. Riches, SECONDED by K. Hovestad, that the Minutes from 2011-JUN-08 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED.

**4. Budget Review: \$515.90**

**5. Correspondence, Periodicals, & Newsletters**

- a) Nanaimo Magazine
- b) Arts Council Newsletter
- c) Heritage BC Quarterly

**6. New Business**

- a) Application for Heritage Home Grant – Booth Residence (302 Victoria Road):  
C. Sholberg introduced the application as the owner of the Booth Residence was not in attendance.

The project cost is estimated at \$7,957.00 to remove the vinyl siding, restore the wood underneath, and repaint the exterior. Construction has started, as it had to begin during the summer. The owner is asking for a grant of \$2,500. C. Meutzner recommended that the building's historical significance score of 54/100 be increased once the work is complete.

MOVED by C. Meutzner, SECONDED by C. Riches, that the Booth Residence (302 Victoria Road) be granted a Heritage Home Grant of \$2,500.

CARRIED.

- b) Application for Heritage Home Grant (2012) – Land Residence (Fernville) (167 Irwin Street):  
Sydney Robertson, owner of the Land Residence (Fernville), attended the meeting to speak to her application. She explained that the project began in 2008 while house hunting in Nanaimo and upon finding out that the house was slated for demolition (and that the owner

was willing to give the house to anyone able to relocate it). They decided to take this offer and move the house from Esplanade Street to its current location on Irwin Street.

After acquisition and financing, preliminary costs included relocation, a new foundation, new plumbing and electrical, etc., and reconstruction of the exterior siding and back of the main floor.

- Moving \$54,000
- Exterior siding \$3,000
- Structural \$36,500

Ms. Robertson understands that it is unusual for applications to be approved retroactively. Throughout the whole process, she had planned to apply for the grant upon replacing the roof. Since costs have been higher than anticipated, she cannot afford the roof replacement or any other exterior improvements at this time. Therefore, she has submitted an application toward the work already completed.

C. Sholberg explained that funds for the 2011 program have been exhausted, but that she could submit an application for the 2012 program. On occasion in the past, the Commission has granted funding to projects during and after construction.

The Commission indicated that they would be willing to consider and support a heritage home grant of \$2,500 to the Land Residence (Fernville) at 167 Irwin Street, pending the 2012 budget. C. Sholberg will arrange to meet with Ms. Robertson to discuss her application, and it can be brought back to the Commission in January 2012 for formal consideration.

W.E. Gard thanked Ms. Robertson for attending the meeting.

c) Protection Island Mine Memorial Sign:

The Protection Island Museum Society wanted to create an interpretive plaque recognizing the miners killed in the Protection Island Mine accident in 1918; one of Nanaimo's biggest disasters. C. Sholberg has been working with them to create a memorial sign.

The sign is being created for the memorial anniversary on 2011-SEP-10. Costs totaled about \$400.00 but will be covered by funds in the "Ships that Built Nanaimo" budget. C. Sholberg is unable to attend the memorial anniversary event, but would appreciate it if a Commission member could attend in his absence.

d) Pacific Biological Station – Historic Event (Update):

C. Sholberg has been notified that the Pacific Biological Station has finally received status as a "historic event" by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. Both a west coast and east coast station were recognized. The Board will contact the City of Nanaimo within the next 18 months to arrange for a plaque installment, etc.

The Commission noted a special thank-you to David Hill-Turner for all of his work on making this happen. L. Sherry requested that this information be presented to Council at a regular televised meeting via a report to Council.

e) Heritage BC Conference & Bastion Rehab Award (2011-SEP-30):

C. Sholberg will be attending one day of the conference and will also be attending an awards reception banquet at 6:00 pm. As well, the mayor will attend to accept the Bastion Rehabilitation Award on behalf of the City.

f) Heritage Canada Foundation Conference (2011-OCT-13) & Prince of Wales Award:

C. Sholberg will be attending the Heritage Canada Foundation conference during the day on 2011-OCT-13, and the award ceremony at 6:30 pm. The Mayor will also be attending to accept the award. If any Commission members are interested in attending the awards ceremony, please let C. Sholberg know and he will ensure their names are placed on the guest list. Transportation is not available.

Nanaimo has received honorable mention for the Prince of Wales award, a significant award with national recognition that honors municipal heritage conservation programs. The application was submitted by the Nanaimo Museum. First place went to Peterborough, Ontario.

g) Beban House:

W.E Gard noted that Tourism Nanaimo is expected to vacate Beban House by the end of the year. He is concerned with the state of the building due to lack of maintenance and also worries that (although part of the upstairs floor will stay occupied) the main floor and basement will be left vacant to deteriorate even further.

The Commission agreed and noted that city-owned heritage buildings seem to be less maintained than some of their privately owned counterparts. The Heritage Action Plan and Official Community Plan references the City being a leader in setting examples throughout the city for heritage building maintenance.

It was suggested that the Commission write a memo to Council expressing their concern about the upcoming vacancy, the lack of building maintenance, and a recommendation to begin considering other groups for occupancy as soon as possible. C. Sholberg will arrange for this.

## 7. Ongoing Business

a) Heritage Paint Out/Shoot Out (2011-SEP-10):

C. Sholberg has confirmed with the Nanaimo Arts Council that the Commission's contribution of \$500 toward the 2011 Heritage Paint Out/Shoot Out will be put exclusively toward prize money.

The event is being held Saturday, 2011-SEP-10 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, awards to be given out at 3:30 pm. Sites have been selected along Commercial and Fitzwilliam Streets.

MOVED by J. Perry, SECONDED by K. Hovestad, that \$500 be donated to the Nanaimo Arts Council to be used as prize money for the 2011 Heritage Paint Out/Shoot Out.

CARRIED.

The Commission was pleased with the event poster.

Side note: Castaway Motel Sign (Follow-up from last meeting):

*C. Meutzner checked into the history of the Castaway Motel sign and found no record of a permit ever being taken out for installation, leading her to believe it was not constructed locally. She has asked Devlin Signs to check their records but no resolution has been found. She suggested that the sign's statement of significance be changed to be less definitive ("some sources claim").*

Side Note: Lighthouse Nominations slow on the west coast:

*C. Sholberg was asked to continue pursuing the nomination for Entrance Island lighthouse for designation as a heritage lighthouse under the Federal Government's Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act, as nomination submissions for the west coast have been slow.*

## 8. Committee Reports

a) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee: J. Hofman not in attendance.

b) Snuneymuxw First Nation: G. Manson not in attendance.

c) Nanaimo Community Archives Society: C. Meutzner reported that many performing art organizations with heritage influence are losing funding and may have to stop operation. The Archive's strategy is to continue to develop their website. They were able to hire a professional to design the site to include more powerful search capabilities and would like it to be re-launched by November. Their student Kelsey has returned to help again this year and has been excellent.

C. Meutzner received a request regarding an interpretive plaque in Wellington with a focus on Jimmy Claxton. Although Jimmy Claxton lived in there for a few years, it had no significant impact on the area. She feels it would be more appropriate for a plaque to focus on the community as a whole (diverse population, schools, community and social life, etc.). Before meeting with related interest groups, she suggested that a mock-up be created.

d) Nanaimo District and Museum: J. Manning not in attendance.

e) Design Advisory Panel: J. Perry reported no items of a heritage-related nature.

*Side Note: John Thomson Heritage Memorial Award – Plaque for John Cass: W.E. Gard noted that Mr. Cass still needs to be shown his award plaque in City Hall. C. Sholberg will arrange for this.*

*Side Note: China Steps Mural: No progress apparent. C. Sholberg noted project is in hands of the property owner.*

*Side Note: Departure Bay Neighbourhood Assoc. – Annual History Night (2011-OCT-27): K. Hovestad noted that the Departure Bay Annual History Night, “Then and Now”, will be held 2011-OCT-27 at 7:00 pm at the Departure Bay Kin Hut. Presentations will include fables and legends by Geraldine Manson, Author Carol Davidson, a drummer, and dancer. Everyone is welcome to attend.*

**9. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for 2011-OCT-05 at 5:00 pm in the City Hall Board Room.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:51pm

APPROVED:

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Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date