



MINUTES
NANAIMO COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2010-NOV-10 AT 5:00 PM
BYLAW CONFERENCE ROOM

Present:	William E. Gard, Chair Joan Perry John Hofman	Christine Meutzner Jill Stannard Karen Hovestad
Staff:	Chris Sholberg, Heritage Planner	Cindy Hall, Recording Secretary
Guests:	Jessica Gemella Shalema Gantt	Teri Smith Devlin Wyatt
Regrets:	Loyd Sherry Charlene Riches	John Manning

1. Call to Order

Chair Gard called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

The agenda was approved as presented.

3. Adoption of Minutes

MOVED by C. Meutzner, SECONDED by K. Hovestad, that the Minutes from 2010-OCT-06 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED.

4. Budget Review: \$1,639.91

It was suggested that if the Commission has surplus funds remaining in their 2010 budget, that a small donation be provided to St. Andrew's United Church for use of their sanctuary for the Heritage Action Plan Review & Update Open House. (Fifty dollars was paid for provision of a custodian.)

5. New Business

a) Morden Mine Site Development Plan Presentation:

J. Hofman introduced Jessica Gemella of Gemella Design, who prepared a site development plan for Morden Colliery Historic Provincial Park. A presentation was given and the following were some of the slides shown and comments made:

- Current map and photo of the Morden Mine area.
- Historical map, and historical photos of the miners, store house, ambulance, water tower, boiler house with chimney, and tipples with head frame.
- Some regional connections were the Granby Mine and abandoned railways in S. Wellington. Coal went by rail to Boat Harbour to be shipped out.
- The mine operated from 1913-1920 then went bankrupt. In 1930, it started up for a year then closed down again.
- There is a great amount of interest in mining history in Nanaimo.
- The S. Wellington neighbourhood are very interested in keeping it alive.
- Proceeds from Tom Paterson's "Black Track" tours will go to Friends of Morden Mine to assist in their efforts to preserve Morden Mine's remaining structures.
- An engineering investigation and report were done, and noted that it is important that restoration be started as soon as possible, due to the condition of the structures remaining at the Mine.

- Public consultation was sought by way of open houses.
- Two ideas were presented: the first was to create a commemorative walk with amenities; and the second plan included restoration work. After public consultation, the two ideas were melded into a plan for a heritage tourism destination and education centre for coal mining history.
- J. Gemella will be preparing grant applications. She noted that the cost to just stabilize the remaining structures is \$2.2 million.
- In response to a question, J. Gemella advised that including what is underground would not be part of the plan. J. Hofman suggested to instead display a portion of a tunnel.
- J. Gemella advised that national designation will be sought.
- It was noted that the Kinsol Trestle received government funding after it got enough of the "public eye".
- J. Hofman noted they will do many presentations, including one to City Council. They will also speak to the local MLA's. A suggestion was made to also utilize Shaw Cable.

The Chair thanked J. Gemella and J. Hofman for their presentation. It was noted that the presentation can also be viewed at www.mordenmine.com.

J. Gemella left the meeting.

6. Correspondence, Periodicals, & Newsletters

a) Black History Month Program and Jimmy Claxton Interpretive Sign Request from the Nanaimo African Heritage Society:

S. Gantt and D. Wyatt advised that as it is the Nanaimo African Heritage Society's mandate to honour black pioneers, they will research Jimmy Claxton, who was born in Wellington and went on to play professional baseball in the United States. If the research warrants recognition, they will approach the Commission again with regard to partnering on the erection of a plaque that tells his story, as they feel it is important for children to know that Canada had a diverse multicultural population that contributed to its history.

C. Sholberg advised that if the Commission supports this proposal in principle, he will work with S. Gantt and the Wellington neighbourhood group on producing the sign.

S. Gantt stated that they will also be seeking a written piece from the Commission to put in their February 2011 program guide for Black History Month. They won't be asking for funding from the Commission at this time however, as they have insufficient information about Mr. Claxton.

It was suggested that Ms. Gantt contact Cumberland for possible information on Mr. Claxton as Cumberland had a large black community who travelled back and forth from Cumberland to Nanaimo.

S. Gantt and D. Wyatt were thanked for their presentation, and they left the meeting.

The Commission stated that if sufficient information is found on Mr. Claxton to produce a sign, that they would support partnering with the Nanaimo African Heritage Society and the Wellington Neighbourhood Association / Wellington Action Committee on this project.

b) Heritage Commission Networking Conference, 2010-NOV-27:

C. Sholberg advised that there are sufficient funds in the Commission's budget to cover a Commission member attending this conference if anyone is interested. K. Hovestad advised that she is interested but will have to check her schedule and get back to C. Sholberg.

MOVED by C. Meutzner, SECONDED by J. Stannard that the Commission allocate up to \$200 for K. Hovestad to attend the Heritage Commission Networking Conference to be held in New Westminster on 2010-NOV-27.

CARRIED.

- c) Old School Course Brochure – Vancouver Heritage Foundation:
C. Sholberg distributed brochures to the Commission members for information.

7. New Business

- b) Commission Christmas Dinner:
C. Sholberg advised that the Town of Ladysmith's Heritage Commission has invited the Commission to meet with them in Ladysmith on 2010-DEC-09. The Commission decided to hold their December meeting/Christmas dinner on their regular meeting date of 2010-DEC-01, and then to meet with the Ladysmith group on a less formal basis on 2010-DEC-09.
- c) Robin's Park – Heritage Register Nomination:
A Nomination Form from Mike Buckler was reviewed.

MOVED by C. Meutzner, SECONDED by K. Hovestad that C. Sholberg begin the process required to consider adding this property to the Heritage Register.

CARRIED.

8. Ongoing Business

- a) Review of Heritage Register:
C. Sholberg noted that the Commission review of the Heritage Register is not yet completed. Commission members asked that this item be deferred until the next meeting.

In response to a question about retaining heritage trees, C. Sholberg advised that he will confirm whether receipt of a professional appraisal by an arborist is done as a condition of a development permit, or could be required, if not.

K. Hovestad left the meeting.

J. Stannard reported there were too many leaves to view the yard at the Milton/Wentworth house, and that she could not view the yard of the Crossan House because of the high fence.

W.E. Gard stated that the supports and the front steps are rotting at Beban House. C. Sholberg advised that Parks and Recreation has noted the issue and will repair it.

- b) Heritage Action Plan Open House - St. Andrew's Sanctuary, 2010-Nov-17, 4:00 to 8:00 pm:
C. Sholberg advised that he is preparing a series of display boards to show at the Open House. When they are complete, he will email a pdf set to the Commission members. J. Hofman will display photos of Morden Mine at the Open House, and C. Meutzner will bring copies of the heritage map to give away as door prizes.

J. Perry will attend the Open House from 5-6 pm; J. Stannard will attend from 4-5 pm; and C. Meutzner and C. Sholberg will attend from 4-8 pm.

9. Committee Reports

- a) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee:
J. Hofman advised that no heritage-related issues were discussed at the last PNAC meeting he attended.
- b) Snuneymuxw First Nation:
No report. Awaiting appointment of new rep.
- c) Nanaimo Community Archives Society:
C. Meutzner reported that VIU want to erect a plaque on the judo building in Gyro Park to commemorate their first classes held there in 1936. The Archives were asked to provide background information, and she presumes VIU will have to contact Parks and Recreation for approval of any plaque that is erected onsite. She stated that the Commission should also be

asked for input with regard to the history of the building, and is worried that Parks and Recreation will bypass the Commission on this one.

The Commission discussed their concerns with regard to being omitted from the plaque approval process. C. Sholberg will draft up a memo to Richard Harding with regard to the Commission's concerns on this matter, asking that in future, the NCHC be asked to review any history-based plaques or interpretive signs that will be installed in a City park.

d) Design Advisory Panel:

J. Perry reported that there were no heritage-related issues discussed at the last two DAP meetings.

e) Nanaimo District and Museum:

No report.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting (Christmas dinner) is scheduled for 2010-DEC-01 at the Modern Café at 5:00 pm.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm

APPROVED:

Chair

Date