



Heritage Richmond Hill

Minutes

HRH#09-24

Thursday, December 5, 2024, 3:00 p.m.

A Heritage Richmond Hill meeting of the Council of the City of Richmond Hill was held on Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. via videoconference.

Committee Members present via videoconference:

Councillor Cilevitz (Chair)
Barbara Di Mambro (Vice-Chair)
Bob Berube
Timothy Cheng
Councillor Davidson
Anete Ivsina (Richmond Hill Public Library)
Barbara Maher-Erwin
Dianne McLeod
Agnes Parr (Richmond Hill Historical Society)

Regrets:

Joanne Schreiber
Nancy Spinks

Staff Members present via videoconference:

K. Chaudry, Manager, Heritage and Urban Design
P. Vega, Urban Design/Heritage Planner
E. Gach, Intern
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk
S. Dumont, Council/Committee Coordinator
C. Connolly, Legislative Services Assistant

1. Call to Order

Chair Cilevitz called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Councillor Davidson

That the agenda be adopted as distributed by the Clerk.

Carried Unanimously

3. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest by members of the Committee under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.

4. Adoption of Previous Minutes

4.1 Minutes - Heritage Richmond Hill meeting HRH#08-24 held November 7, 2024

Moved by: B. Di Mambro

a) That the minutes of Heritage Richmond Hill meeting HRH#08-24 held November 7, 2024, be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

5. Delegation(s)

There were no delegations.

6. Scheduled Business

6.1 SRPBS.24.125 - Demolition Request for 64 Major Mackenzie Drive East

Committee members expressed their disappointment and sadness over the circumstances that led to the request to demolish the George W. Baker Cottage, and with the loss of another piece of Richmond Hill history. Members expressed their support of the demolition request as the building posed a public safety concern. Members inquired if there was a clause that required the property owner to rebuild, if a Fire Incident Report could be obtained to learn why the fire occurred, and if the property is in receivership.

Staff explained that they initially recommended that the owner submit a Conditions Report prior to the issuance of the Demolition Permit, however, the owner had since advised that the property had further deteriorated, and that trying to document the building could be a safety hazard, thus staff have expressed timely action be taken to advance the demolition of the building. Committee members discussed removing the requirement for a Conditions Report to expedite approval of the demolition.

Committee members expressed their concern regarding the Ethel House on the adjacent property, given that it was also vacant, and questioned how it could be protected from falling into similar circumstances. Committee members shared their disappointment that Heritage Richmond Hill has no authority to request anything of that homeowner and shared their hope that this discussion will lead to measures to protect the remaining structure and prevent further loss.

Moved by: Councillor Davidson

That Heritage Richmond Hill recommends to Council:

- a) That Staff Report SRPBS.24.125 regarding the Demolition Request for 64 Major Mackenzie Drive East, be received;
- b) That Council approve the demolition of 64 Major Mackenzie Drive East;
- c) That, prior to the issuance of a Demolition Permit for the subject property, the owner shall submit building documentation for the George W. Baker Cottage and as-built measured plan and elevation drawings, to the satisfaction of Heritage and Urban Design staff; and
- d) That, once the George W. Baker Cottage is demolished, 64 Major Mackenzie Drive East be removed from Richmond Hill's Heritage Register.

An Amendment was:

Moved by: B. Berube

That Clause C of the Main Motion be deleted.

Carried Unanimously

Main Motion as Amended:

Moved by: Councillor Davidson

That Heritage Richmond Hill recommends to Council:

- a) That Staff Report SRPBS.24.125 regarding the Demolition Request for 64 Major Mackenzie Drive East, be received;
- b) That Council approve the demolition of 64 Major Mackenzie Drive East; and
- c) That, once the George W. Baker Cottage is demolished, 64 Major Mackenzie Drive East be removed from Richmond Hill's Heritage Register.

Carried Unanimously

7. Adjournment

Moved by: A. Parr

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.