



HERITAGE MARKHAM EXTRACT

Date: January 15, 2025

To: R. Hutcheson, Manager of Heritage Planning
P. Wokral, Senior Heritage Planner

EXTRACT CONTAINING ITEM #6.3 OF THE FIRST HERITAGE MARKHAM
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 11, 2024

6. PART FOUR - REGULAR

6.3 DEMOLITION PERMIT

11172 WARDEN AVENUE

PROPOSED DEMOLITION- CLAYTON SCHOOLHOUSE (16.11)

File Numbers:

DP 23 110974 and HE 24 199654

Heritage Markham Committee consented to move this item to the top of the Regular Section of the Agenda.

Peter Wokral, Senior Heritage Planner, introduced this item as it relates to a Demolition Permit for the Clayton Schoolhouse located at 11172 Warden Avenue following a fire that occurred on December 25, 2022. Mr. Wokral advised that Heritage Markham previously reviewed the demolition request on February 8, 2023 and only supported demolition of the non-heritage portions of the building. At the time, Heritage Markham Committee requested the owner take steps to ensure that the remaining brick structure be protected in hopes of restoration. Mr. Wokral further advised that due to the current condition of the structure the Owner has applied under the Ontario Heritage Act to demolish the rest of the building which would also need Council's approval. Staff are recommending that due to the current condition of the building Heritage Markham provide no comment on the demolition application and no objection to the repeal of the bylaw should Council ultimately decide to proceed with demolition and further that the owner be responsible for erecting a Markham Remembered Plaque to memorialize the significance of the site and former building.



The Applicant, Asad Azizi, was in attendance to respond to any questions and provided Heritage Markham Committee with images showcasing the historical significance of the Clayton Schoolhouse.

Evelin Ellison, deputant, expressed disappointment regarding the loss of a historic schoolhouse as it was an integral part of the community with rich history evident in the pictures shared by the Owner. Ms. Ellison also expressed hope that the former heritage building could be rebuilt to its original appearance.

The Committee provided the following feedback:

- There was an expectation that the remaining masonry walls would be protected from elements and reasons were provided by the owner for why that was not done.
- The possibility of preserving the antique school bell on the front of the building that was shown in the photographs.
- The possibility of using QR codes to link to a webpage displaying old photographs that showcase the history and important details of the former heritage building.
- Whether the Markham Remembered plaque will be required to be kept if the owner sells the vacant land and the plaque is erected on the land as opposed to the building itself.
- The need to establish a sub-committee to investigate different forms of plaque programs utilizing modern technology.

The Committee expressed disappointment for the loss of this historic schoolhouse building and the cultural significance it had to the community. The Committee also empathized with Mr. Azizi on the loss of his family home and thanked him for attending the meeting.

Recommendation:

THAT Heritage Markham is saddened by the current condition of the former Clayton Schoolhouse and lack of action to stabilize the heritage components of the building that survived the fire;

THAT Heritage Markham provides no comment on the Demolition Heritage Permit application seeking the demolition of the remaining masonry walls of the Clayton Schoolhouse.

AND THAT if Council supports the removal of the building from the property, Heritage Markham recommends the following:

- No objection to the repeal of Designation By-law 187-82; and;



- The owner be required to provide and install at its cost, an interpretative baked enamel plaque commemorating the history and architecture of the Clayton Schoolhouse with the plaque designed according to the specifications of the "Markham Remembered" program with details of the design and location of the plaque submitted for review and approval of the City (Heritage Section).

Carried