



**MINUTES FROM THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE
MAIN STREET MARKHAM COMMITTEE IN 2011**

**Town of Markham
York Room - Civic Centre**

June 15, 2011 – 5:30 p.m.

Members

Diane Kobelansky
Councillor Colin Campbell
Peter Ross
Dianne More
Helen Walter
Keith Thirgood
Phil Howes
Ibrahim Ali

Regrets

Councillor Carolina Moretti
Jonathan Mingay
Deirdre Kavanagh

Staff

Regan Hutcheson, Manager of Heritage Planning
Dale Mackenzie, Senior Capital Works Engineer,
Carlie Turpin, Committee Secretary

Guests

Peter Wong, Manager, Municipal Transportation, Morrison Hershfield

The meeting of the Main Street Markham Committee meeting convened at 5:53 p.m. with Councillor Colin Campbell in the Chair.

**1. MINUTES FROM THE May 18, 2011 MEETING OF THE MAIN STREET
MARKHAM COMMITTEE**

The Committee noted that the reference to “obtaining a separate domain name could be very expensive” was incorrect and asked it be removed.

THE MAIN STREET MARKHAM COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS:

That the Minutes of the Main Street Markham Committee meeting held on May 18, 2011, be adopted as amended for item 2) b and redistributed.

CARRIED

2. UPDATES:

a) Main Street Markham Environmental Assessment

Dale Mackenzie reported that out of the three sections for this project, the first section (north of 16th Avenue) is underway. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was released and Morrison Hershfield was the successful contractor. The project is funded by development charges. The design for this section is 60% complete and will be discussed by Peter Wong at this meeting.

Morrison Hershfield is also the successful contractor for the second section, from Highway 7 to 16th Avenue. The funding for this section is complicated and will be funded through tax funding only, no development charges. The funding for the area between Highway 7 & Church St. comes from \$150,000 of tax funding previously set aside for the project. The funding for the area between Church St. & 16th Avenue will be funded by gas tax monies collected by York Region. The construction phase will also likely be funded by gas tax monies. The RFP for the last section between Highway 7 & Highway 407 is currently being finalized by staff.

Dale advised that there were few issues with the first section. However, there will be more issues related to the middle section. They plan to replace all sewers which will require excavating 3-4 metres from the surface.

Discussions with public works and internal departments concerning unknown construction of former railways/highways to determine road design and determine soil condition is underway. These unknown structures may cause delays in the construction process. The Committee discussed the historical background of the area and felt it would be important to obtain a better understanding of the area's history. Councillor Campbell recommended he speak with Lorne Smith (Town Historian) to obtain some information regarding the area's history. He was also aware of other older residents who could potentially provide information such as Dorothy Gilbert.

Dale advised he had attended an Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting today. The Accessibility committee requested businesses on Main St. Markham make their entrances more accessible and suggested the installation of portable ramps to allow those in wheelchairs to navigate the steps on many front entrances. They also suggested urban Braille be incorporated into the new design plan. This is already in use in Hamilton and involves minimizing sidewalk expansion joints, using a dark edging along the sidewalk and using contrasting colours in intersection asphalt so the visually impaired can see the edge of the sidewalk or walkway. The Accessibility Advisory Committee requested a presentation from staff on how the businesses in the area can be made more accessible.

Peter Wong advised the Committee he has started the design for the first section from 16th Ave. to Major Mackenzie and it is 60% complete. The design for the second section of 16th Ave. to Highway 7 has just begun and is approximately 30% complete. The design will maintain the road width of the existing roadway and provide a streetscape design for the areas between the curb and buildings, including the proposed bump-outs in the commercial area. All designs will be in line with local heritage requirements. Peter advised he will have more details to report at the next meeting.

The first section is anticipated to be completed by September/October and the second section will be completed by the end of the year, pending input from local interest groups.

Committee raised concerns about the placement of trees close to parking spots. Committee recommends that the design process take into account the placement of trees and parking spaces to ensure clearance for car doors.

It was recommended that the Committee forgo meeting in the summer and instead schedule a Community Advisory Group (CAG) meeting in July to review and discuss the design proposals primarily focussed on the design concept for the middle section..

ACTION: Councillor Campbell to ask Lorne Smith, Town Historian, to report back on history of the area

ACTION: Dale Mackenzie to send out invitation to CGA meeting for July 20 and requested attendees be prepared to discuss ideas/feedback.

ACTION: Dale Mackenzie to have a set of drawings available in his office to view prior to CGA meeting.

b) Interpretive Sub-Committee - Phase 2 of the Interpretive Streetscape Program

Regan Hutcheson, Manager of Heritage Planning, advised nothing had changed since the last meeting.

c) Incoming Planning Applications

Regan Hutcheson advised that there are Site Plan applications for #15, #17, and #10 Rouge Street for new dwellings. Committee of Adjustment received a variance and severance application for # 15 and #17 Rouge Street that has been deferred for consultation.

58 Main St. North: Modifications to Site Plan Control Approval Conditions were approved for the main issue related to removal of a condition related to access easements. An alternate solution to provide secondary vehicular access is to be achieved to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of Development Services.

5956 Highway 7: Modification to Site Plan Control Approval/Agreement was originally approved for 2 buildings but the owner decided not to build the second one. Recent modification to site plan will see the second building constructed, without the connecting walkway to Main St.

158 Main St. North: The owners had claimed to be doing waterproofing in their basement is actually proposing to construct a front yard parking lot. This will require a Site Plan Application, and Heritage Markham review.

d) Parking Lot Signs

Phil Howes advised that he and Bob Walter did undertake a site visit and did a walk around to look at parking lot directional signs. Bob was opposed to having back-to-back signs installed at Wilson & Dublin Streets. Phil advised there are already signs on Main Street going north and signs at Wilson Street directing people to the temporary GO parking while the GO lot is under construction. It was recommended to place one sign on Main Street south at Robinson

ACTION: Bob Walter be requested to install the directional sign on Main Street at Robinson Street

e) Parkette Maintenance Issue

Councillor Campbell advised that an Active Citizen Request (ACR) has been submitted to repaint the gazebo and trim shrubbery at the parkette. He will submit another ACR to have the paint on the gazebo examined to determine if a different type of paint should be used to reduce the flaking. Councillor Campbell advised the Town will continue to be responsible for maintenance of the parkette.

ACTION: Councillor Campbell – ACR regarding gazebo paint issue

f) 2012 Capital Budget

The Committee should provide any capital budget requests to Councillor Campbell or Councillor Moretti as soon as possible.

g) Summer meetings

Committee decided to break for the summer and reconvene its regular meetings on Wednesday September 21, 2011.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a) Plaque project on Peter Street – Dianne More

This project is a partnership between the Town, homeowners and the Markham Village Conservancy (MVC). Thornhill has approached the MVC to utilize the plaques on their heritage homes and wish to use a brown background (their approved district colour). Before the MVC gives Thornhill the authorization to use it, they must first decide on a colour scheme for use on the remainder of Markham Village plaques. Dianne noted that the Mount Joy area of the Village was using a blue background due to its connection to the Pennsylvania-German settlers. A background colour needs to be selected for the rest. It was suggested that a black background would make the lettering stand out. It is recognized that it is important to maintain consistency in the plaque design throughout the Town, with differing background colours for different areas.

ACTION: Committee to review plaque colour choice for Markham Village and report back to Dianne

ACTION: Keith to present sketch to distribute to the Committee and reach consensus by noon June 16, 2011.

b) Big Belly Recycling Units – Councillor Campbell

There are 12 of these solar powered compactors being placed at locations on Main St. Markham and Main St. Unionville. Committee is concerned with the colours of these bins. The proposal is to clad half in the heritage colour of the district (copper) and the other half in black. The BIA indicated it prefers a black skin and would like to see the geese symbol included in the artwork. The Committee supported using a black colour skin for the units and requested staff to explore incorporating the geese symbol if possible.

ACTION: Councillor Campbell to provide feedback on the colours and design of the bins to Claudia Marsales, Waste Management & Environment.

b) **Public Washrooms** – Committee

Committee discussed the possibility of having the new washrooms made unisex to allow all 3 washrooms to be available for use. The washrooms will be open to the public on Friday June 17, 2011.

c) **Heritage Award Nominations at Council Meeting** – Regan Hutcheson

A member of the Committee, Peter Ross, has been nominated for an Ontario Heritage Trust award. At the May 11, 2011 meeting of Heritage Markham, Peter Ross was nominated in the Cultural Heritage category for his extensive work in helping to preserve the historic character of Markham Village. Markham Council approved the nomination by resolution on June 14, 2011. Committee members congratulated Peter on this honour.

4. NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Main Street Markham Committee is September 21, 2011.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The Main Street Markham Committee meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.