



Municipal Heritage Committee Report

Report Number: KLMHC2025-020

Meeting Date: March 6, 2025

Title: **Heritage Designation Strategy Brainstorming Summary**

Description: Summary of brainstorming undertaken to support the development of a heritage designation strategy

Author and Title: Emily Turner, Economic Development Officer – Heritage Planning

Recommendations:

That Report KLMHC2025-020, **Heritage Designation Strategy Brainstorming Summary**, be received; and

That that staff report back at the next meeting on alignment with strategic plans and direction.

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Background:

In October 2024, the provincial government released the new Provincial Planning Statement which replaces the Provincial Policy Statement (2020) and the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (2019). Section 4.6, Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, is similar to the equivalent section in the 2020 PPS with some specific differences that reflect the broader changes to the Ontario Heritage Act since 2022. Generally, the new PPS policies direct municipalities to be proactive regarding the identification and protection of properties in advance of the submission of development and alteration applications.

One of the new policy directions in the PPS is that municipalities are “encouraged to develop and implement proactive strategies for conserving significant built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes.” The direction to develop strategies speaks to the broader need for transparency and consistency in municipal decision making and allows staff, Municipal Heritage Committees and Councils to identify and protect heritage properties in a measured and strategic manner.

At present, the City does not have an overarching strategy for heritage preservation. The 2012 Heritage Master Plan broadly sets direction for heritage preservation in the City but is over a decade old and is neither specific to built heritage preservation nor does it align with the current legislative framework. While this plan served an important purpose in developing the City’s heritage programs, it is out of date and a new strategic document is required to serve as a foundation for heritage protecting in the municipality.

Over the past several years, staff and the Committee have worked to develop a number of strategic documents related to specific areas of heritage preservation in the municipality. These include the Heritage Conservation District Strategy, Cultural Heritage Landscape Strategy, and Heritage Inventory Framework which have been adopted by Council and the Archaeological Management Plan which is currently ongoing and anticipated to come forward for Council adoption in early spring 2025. These documents set strategic direction for specific aspects of heritage preservation but do not provide a holistic view of heritage designation or protection in Kawartha Lakes.

In 2023, the changes to the Ontario Heritage Act with regard to listed properties on the Heritage Register required the City to develop a high-level strategy to address how to prioritize and designate listed properties. A strategy for prioritizing properties was

brought forward to Council in March 2023 which prioritized commercial, institutional and landmark listed properties for designation. This strategy has proved largely successful for quickly identifying and designating properties on the register but was never intended to be a long-term strategy and focussed only properties already listed on the City's Heritage Register.

While the review and designation of listed properties is anticipated to continue over the next several years, the City needs to transition to a longer-term strategy that extends beyond properties listed on the Register to ensure that properties that are not listed and may be identified in future as having historic value are protected and preserved. The City needs to be proactive in its approach to protecting heritage properties.

At its meeting of January 9, 2025, the Committee began an initial brainstorming exercise for a new heritage designation strategy. They continued their brainstorming at their meeting of February 6, 2025 where they passed the following resolution:

KLMHC2025-020

Moved By T. Barnett

Seconded By S. Sims

That Report KLMHC2025-015, **Heritage Designation Strategy Brainstorming Review**, be received; and

That staff bring back a summary of the brainstorming and discussion for next steps at a subsequent meeting.

Carried

Staff have brought together a summary of the Committee's discussion over the past two meetings for review. The summary is an opportunity to review the Committee's priorities before staff undertaken an exercise to review existing City strategy and plans to identify areas of alignment.

Rationale:

This report is intended to present the summary of the Committee's brainstorming discussions from January and February 2025. This is an opportunity for the Committee to review its brainstorming and identify any additional key items it would like to see highlighted in a final strategy.

The next step for the strategy is for staff to review existing strategic plans to find areas of alignment and direction from Council regarding the designation of heritage properties.

Other Alternatives Considered:

There are no recommended alternatives.

Financial/Operation Impacts:

There are no financial or operational impacts as the result of the recommendations of this report.

Consultations:

N/A

Attachments:

Appendix A – Brainstorming Summary



Heritage Designation
Strategy Brainstorming

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Department Head: Leah Barrie, Director of Development Services