

Scugog River Subcommittee Minutes

February 22, 2023

Subcommittee Members: Ian McKechnie, Jon Pitcher, Julia Hartman

Staff: Emily Turner

Regrets: Athol Hart

The subcommittee began by reviewing their work from last year where they had undertaken two walks of the river, identified boundaries, views and heritage resources.

Emily asked what the goals of the subcommittee were. Ian noted that the committee wanted to provide interpretation and education about the area along the river and Julia discussed the potential for developing guidelines for development along the river and protecting heritage resources. The subcommittee recognized these were two separate projects that should be addressed separately.

The subcommittee discussed the process to develop plaques. Emily noted that they would have to collaborate with Parks staff at the City to formulate a plan, and also find identify budget and funding sources the project which could include project funding from the City or from external sources. Ian suggested that the subcommittee might want to consider a series of panels telling different stories along the river. Emily will connect the subcommittee with Parks staff to have a conversation regarding this aspect of the project.

The subcommittee discussed how protection might occur. Emily noted that the subcommittee could pursue individual designations, a heritage conservation district, or an official plan amendment. Ian noted that the subcommittee had previously discussed undertaking an official plan amendment. Emily outlined the process for undertaking this kind of process which would include undertaking a cultural heritage evaluation report, having a public meeting, and have an official plan amendment approved by Council. Julia asked if Council could choose not to approve this, which was correct. The subcommittee would like to pursue this so Emily will provide some background documents and examples for them to see what is involved with this project.

Jon suggested that the interpretive panels should be the priority and the subcommittee should continue to explore options for protection. The subcommittee agreed with this direction. Ian also discussed the need to map the sites identified in 2022 and he and Emily will work on this output together.

Action Items:

- Connect with Parks staff (Emily)
- Identify where panels should be located, content and how many (All)
- Review sample cultural heritage evaluations and official plan amendments (All)
- Prepare map of area and sites (Emily and Ian)

Next Meeting: TBD