

Corporation of the Township of Hamilton

Heritage Advisory Committee



Terms of Reference

Section 28 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18, as amended, provides that the council of a municipality may by by-law establish a municipal heritage committee to advise and assist the council on matters relating to Part IV – Conservation of Property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest, and Part V – Heritage Conservation Districts, and such other heritage matters as the council may specify by by-law.

The Municipal Act authorizes a municipal Council to establish or dissolve Boards or Committees. The Council of Hamilton Township has established a Heritage Committee.

Mandate

The Council of the Township of Hamilton has agreed that the Heritage Committee shall provide Council and ratepayers with historical information and guidance on the conservation of properties of architectural and/or historical value or interest in the municipality. The Committee shall promote the history and culture of Hamilton Township.

Responsibilities of the Heritage Advisory Committee

- To establish criteria for the evaluation of properties of architectural and/or historical value or interest;
- To prepare and maintain a register of properties and areas worthy of conservation;
- To advise Council on means of conserving heritage properties and areas;
- To advise Council on current heritage conservation legislation and to assist Council in the preparation of municipal legislation to conserve heritage properties and areas;
- To implement programs and activities to increase public awareness and knowledge of heritage conservation issues;
- To advise and assist Council on all matters re: the designation of properties and buildings for architectural and/or historical value or interest;
- To advise and assist Council on all designated property grants;
- To prepare a report of the previous year's activities and expenditures and a projected budget for the succeeding year;
- To make recommendations to Council on all subdivision street name proposals.
- The designation of, repealing the designation of, and demolishing/removing a building or structure which forms part of a designated property.
- To carry out miscellaneous projects as requested by Council
- To promote the Township's heritage and culture.

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Composition of the Committee

The Committee will be appointed by Council, following a municipal election. The Committee shall be appointed to serve for the term of council and be composed of:

- One (1) appointed member of Municipal Council
- Minimum of five (5) and maximum of seven (7) members-at-large, who are qualified to be elected as members of Council. Members-at-large are appointed by Council.
- Recording Secretary (Municipal Clerk or designate)

Role of the Committee

Membership on the committee is a position of responsibility and requires a strong commitment to the Terms of Reference. Committee members are required to:

- Designate a Chair and Vice-chair;
- Attend regular scheduled meetings. Members are required to notify the Chair, Secretary or the designated staff representative if they are unable to attend;
- Review all information supplied to them;
- Prepare information for use in the development of materials for the Committee;
- Promote the role of Committee;
- Offer input to committee reports to Council;
- The committee shall endeavour to meet six (6) times a year, with all meetings open to the public, except that legal, personnel and land acquisition/disposition matter may be discussed in-camera. If it is not necessary to meet this often or if it is necessary to meet more frequently, meetings shall be held at the call of the chair in consultation with the Municipal Clerk.

Role of Staff:

The Municipal Clerk will act as resource to the committee with no voting rights.

- The Committee will receive administrative support from township staff, including meeting preparation, recording and distributing minutes to committee members and Council, and communicating Committee recommendations to Council and other relevant stakeholders.

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- Staff will provide required support to the Committee for the purposes of providing background information associated with policy and process.

Role of Council

The Council shall appoint the members-at-large and provide funds where applicable to an approved budget. The Council appointed representative will represent committee at Council to disburse information. Should an issue arise that cannot be resolved, the Chair shall contact the CAO. If the issue is still not resolved, the Chair may, through the CAO, ultimately request a meeting with Council.

Meeting Protocol:

The Committee shall endeavour to meet six times a year. If it is not necessary to meet this often or if it is necessary to meet more frequently, meetings shall be held at the call of the Chair in consultation with the Municipal Clerk.

At the Committee's first meeting of the term, a Chair and Vice Chair will be selected. These offices will be reviewed mid-term.

Meetings shall follow a written agenda, and minutes shall be kept which accurately reflect the recommendations of the Committee. Minutes shall be reported directly to the Committee members and Council. Committee recommendations that require support and or direction shall be presented to Township Council for consideration.

An agenda will be prepared and distributed by staff to members prior to meetings. Members will review the agenda and supporting information to be prepared to fully participate and be knowledgeable on all items to be discussed at the meeting.

The Committee will make recommendations based on consensus. In the event consensus cannot be reached, the Committee will vote with a Resolution moved and seconded, with majority vote prevailing.

The Committee shall keep in touch with other community groups that are interested in cultural and historical activities within the Township.

The Committee will review the Terms of Reference during its term, bringing forward any suggested changes to recommendations to Council for consideration.

The Township of Hamilton's Procedural By-law shall govern the proceedings and activities of the Heritage Advisory Committee.



Conflict of Interest

It is the individual responsibility of each Committee member to determine if there is a potential for pecuniary interest, to declare any conflicts and to refrain from discussion or voting on the matter. An example of pecuniary interest would be that a request from a user or other group comes forward and a Township Board/Committee member also holds a voting position on that group. The Municipal Conflict of Interest Act is available on-line at www.e-laws.gov.on.ca, or a copy can be obtained from the Township Office. It is not the responsibility of Township Staff to advise on matters of conflict, rather it is up to individual members to determine if a potential for conflict exists.

Quorum

A majority of the members present constitutes a Quorum.

Absenteeism

Unusual absenteeism will be addressed through the Chair and Mayor, if necessary, for any member of the Committee.

Resignation

Any resignation of a member of the Committee shall be tendered to the Chairperson in writing who will advise Council through the minutes of the committee. The name of a replacement member shall be obtained through the public appointment process. When approved by Council, the new appointee shall serve the remainder of the vacant term.