



Date: January 22, 2019
To: Mayor Andy Mitchell and Council Members
From: Robert Lamarre Manager of Building and Planning
Subject: Intention to Designate – Johnson Bickell Cemetery
Status: For Endorsement

Recommendation

That the report from the Manager of Building and Planning regarding the intention to designate the former Johnson Bickell Cemetery be received for information; and

That Council move forward with the requisite notice of its intention to designate 2889 Lakefield Road – Johnson Bickell Cemetery through advertisement in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality as per the Ontario Heritage Act R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18, s. 31 (3) as the Committee has completed a heritage building evaluation using the information provided by Kathryn Matheson as detailed in her Heritage Design Brief and has established that the designation of the structure as a heritage property under Part IV, section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act (R.S.O. 1990, c.0.18) being of “cultural heritage value or interest” is warranted.

Information

The 2018 Heritage Committee budget included the typical \$2,000.00 figure set aside for consulting services. These funds are requested annually to fund the research required to evaluate the cultural heritage value of one structure/landscape per year. In 2018, the Municipal Heritage Committee chose the Johnson/Bickell Cemetery as the candidate for research.

Under Part IV of the Act, municipalities can designate individual properties as being of “cultural heritage value or interest” through the passage of municipal By-laws. A property is eligible for designation if it has physical, historical, associative or contextual value and meets any one of nine criteria set out under Regulation 9/06 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

The designation process strikes a balance between the freedom of individual property owners and the recognized need of the community to preserve its heritage resources. Heritage designation prohibits unwarranted demolition and controls major alterations that might otherwise harm specific heritage features. Designation may also make property owners eligible for preservation grants and tax relief and provides owners access to professional expertise and advice.

In accordance with our procedures, the Heritage Committee commissioned Kathryn Matheson to complete a Heritage Designation Brief as it relates to the Johnson Bickell Cemetery located at 2889 Lakefield Road. The Brief was completed in 2018 and accepted by the Committee at its recent meeting.

A member of the Committee and one staff member were tasked with reviewing the Brief and evaluating the structures cultural or heritage value or interest using the Township's Heritage Building Evaluation Score Sheet. The Committee collectively completed an evaluation at its recent meeting.

The overall consensus score for the building based upon our evaluation criteria was 86%. This score puts the structure into category A in the scale of designation categories.

Category A properties are defined as "individually outstanding and have the broadest heritage significance by virtue of architectural, historical, and environmental criteria.

Category A properties are of the highest priority for heritage designation. Consequently, I have recommended that the Council move forward with the requisite notice of its intention to designate the Cemetery through advertisement in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18, s. 29 (3).

Financial Impact

The recommendations of this report will require modest expenditures related to advertising and title registration. As the property is municipally owned, the designation of the Cemetery will have modest long term financial impacts related to the costs associated with maintaining the sites heritage attributes.

The Municipal Heritage Committee has consulted with a restoration professional to clean the remaining markers as recommended in the designation brief. The associated costs are manageable and are proposed to be included in the 2019 budget.

Strategic Plan Reference

Support a sustainable, balanced, and investment-ready community.

Environmental Impact

The recommendations proposed in this report will have no environmental impact.

Attachments

Heritage Designation Brief – Johnson Bickell Cemetery.

Robert Lamarre

Prepared By: Robert Lamarre, Manager of Building and Planning

Janice Lavalley

Reviewed By: Janice Lavalley, CAO