

OLRA Board Meeting – January 13, 2015 Minutes

O’Finn’s @ 7:30 pm

Attendance:

Caroline Glasbey, George Niblock, Pierre Gagnon, Chris Coderre, Boyd Waites, Bob Laughlin (quorum)

Regrets:

Lisa Ebel, Clemens VanZeyl, Trudy Murray, Marcia Todd, Amanda Holden

Approval from George Niblock’s minutes from December meeting:

Motion to approve – Pierre

Seconded – Chris

Treasurer’s Report: Caroline (for Trudy Murray)

No changes from last meeting. Boyd signed new signatory forms at bank (it was not actually needed, but all information is now confirmed and up to date).

Membership: Caroline Glasbey

Only 1 member since last meeting. Next “push” will be around the spring newsletter delivery.

Communications: Caroline Glasbey (for Amanda Holden)

Spring newsletter: Initial discussion regarding content, etc., will be discussed at the February meeting. Delivery to residents will be targeted for two to three weeks prior to the AGM.

AGM date – to be determined at next meeting.

Planning and Heritage:

The Town is organizing focus groups regarding First and Second Street Heritage. Susan Shappart (Town Heritage Planner) has requested support from the Board to join one of the groups and has invited residents from First and Second Streets to participate in a separate group. Boyd, George, Pierre and Bob agreed to participate on behalf of the Board, depending on their availability.

It was commented that Burlington incentivizes owners of heritage properties by returning 20% of their respective property taxes. This is a far more substantial offering than the Oakville heritage grant provided by the Town.

Downtown Plan:

There was discussion about the Downtown Streetscape, in particular, the timing and logistics of the construction. What can be done to expedite construction, so that businesses will be least affected? Can the board approach the Town and stress the need to commence in 2016?

The OLRA board should submit their thoughts to the Town – Boyd will draft a letter for the board’s review.

Discussion continued surrounding the downtown stores and the entry of larger “big box” stores entering the mix.

There were concerned comments about the midtown expansion and the lack of planned sufficient infrastructure (thoroughfare, for example). How can the board get involved to voice residents’ concerns? Traffic to and from the Go Station is already a challenge, without the impending future build.

Next Meetings

Tuesday, February 10 – Lisa’s (Lisa offered following the meeting)

Tuesday, March 10

Tuesday, April 14

May – AGM (date tbd)

June – tbd

Meeting Adjourned