

Minutes of NECA Board Meeting - 18 July 2017
New Edinburgh House, 255 MacKay Street

Present: Ted Bennett, Roslyn Butler, Natasha Cappon, Ann Davis, Sean Flynn, Christina Leadlay, Gail McEachern, Phillip Nowotny, Cindy Parkanyi

Absent: Sylvain Belanger, Joe Chouinard, Jennifer Irwin, Santiago Reyes, Geoff Smith, Matt de Wolfe

Guest: Councillor Tobi Nussbaum's assistant Lara (Tobi was celebrating his birthday)

Councillor's Report: Lara gave this report: The new owner of the property of 280 Crichton has submitted his application for a building permit. If there are drawings and plans available Tobi's office will share them with us.

Neighbourhood crosswalks (PXO) are still under review. Since the crossing at Electric St and Crichton falls just under the usage level criterium used by the City, it is still being considered. This type of crosswalk includes a light system when the 'cross-street' push button is activated and is expensive to install and maintain. Only one is permitted per ward per year. However, a simpler "zebra crosswalk" may be installed at Crichton and Keefer on the north side of the crossing by the Spa beauty parlour. Since our priority crossing is at Electric/Crichton we will wait until that decision is resolved.

Printing of New Edinburgh Heritage Walking Tour brochures: The City does have a facility for printing heritage material and perhaps could help us with the cost.

The new pumping station construction has gone ahead and it is a basic concrete structure. Cladding can be installed over the concrete but may only be chosen from a selection provided by the contractor. A meeting with them and the Heritage & Development Committee to look at options is to be held next week.

The "Za Za Pizza location (includes Joseph's) will be redeveloped. This now involves the entire block. The developer has submitted a request for a "minor Variance" to City hall. The plans are for a 'mixed-use' building of several stories.

End of Councillor's Report.

Approval of Minutes: Ann Davis moved that the Board approve the May 2017 Board minutes. Ted Bennett seconded the motion and all approved.

note: Since there was no quorum for the June 2017 Board meeting there were no minutes to approve. There are notes recording what was discussed, for the record.

Approval of July 2017 NECA Board meeting Agenda: There was a request to add an item to "Other Business" - Brainstorming on Heritage. Phillip Nowotny moved that the Agenda with the addition be approved and this was seconded by Sean Flynn. All approved.

C.S.S.T. : Gail reported that she did receive an email from Tobi Nussbaum's office inviting the H & D Committee to a meeting next week to study the cladding options for the new pumping station. Gail will keep us posted.

A list of concerns NECA wants to discuss at the next CCMC meeting:

- Birds are flying into the windows of the construction portable offices. Is there something to be done about this - bird-of-prey silhouettes? corks on strings?
- Bicycles on the footpath - going too fast -running into dogs -responding to objections and slow down signals with aggression and verbal abuse.
- Signs for bicycle riders are slow to appear - especially for the pedestrian footpath, as it crosses both City and NCC land and both entities must give approval. The signs on the official bike path are in place but are difficult to read at a glance from a moving bike. Perhaps we need signs with simple graphics as well. Posting a bicycle speed limit may help.
- Construction on Queen Victoria St. is on hold. There is some disagreement about the location of a hydro pole. This part of the project is now delayed by 3 months.

Removal of contaminated soil began at the beginning of July. The soil from the children's playground is now being removed and will be also trucked away. Fortunately the continued wet weather has kept most windblown contaminated dust to a minimum.

Community Surveys:

The Health Survey has been delayed until the fall.

However, the planned community survey regarding the function and activities provided by NECTAR will go ahead. Early September is the determined time and volunteers will be found and briefed during last half of August. The community very much needs to have the information with this survey will provide so that the Taskforce can plan for the future without New Edinburgh House.

150th Celebration in New Edinburgh:

Since Thomas MacKay Day is 01 September and this year that falls on a Friday, it was decided to have a community party/BBQ on the lawns of New Ed. House, to celebrate Canada's 150 and New Edinburgh's 180. Everyone will be invited. It will be pot-luck with perhaps some BBQing. There will be some historical characters present (if they can be enticed to join us from the past).

Gail McEachern will talk to and work with Janet Uren as she has some New Edinburgh banners, pictures and information stored at her house as well as some historical information she has learned during her research for St. Bartholomew's Church.

Perhaps we could show a video/slide show loop of the historical pictures.

If it is possible to organize a reprint of the "Historical Walking Tour" brochures in time, they will be available as well.

The neighbourhood will be notified via posters, email, list serve etc....
The time will be on 01 September from 05:00 - 08:00 p.m.

We will ask Joseph Cull to possibly lend us his sound system and maybe to help in other ways.

Christina Leadlay will help organize as she has experience with her own neighbourhood block party.

WE will ask Isobel Bisbee and the 3C's to help.

This party/picnic could also act as a goodbye to New Edinburgh House.

Communications / Membership:

Cindy listed a number of changes and updates which need to be made to the New Edinburgh website:

- Where did all the revolving photos of New Edinburgh, that were on the previous site, go?
- We need to fix up the "Front Page" and put the photos back.
- There is no link to the H & D Committee reports. Gail will give more information and Christina will fix the site.
- "Friends of the Park" page links to the 3C's old site.
- The New Edinburgh News Advisory Committee must be put on the site.
- Everyone was requested to look through the website for missing or incorrect information and let Christina know.

Our membership list needs to be improved. The email addresses are most useful for reaching the community.

We miss David Slinn and his communications skills. We need someone to manage media contacts and outreach. Some names were suggested for this: Vicky Henry? Geoff Smith? Natasha Cappon? others... .

Board members were asked to keep in mind someone who can do this.
Cindy will send Phil Nowotny a list of what needs doing.

October NECA AGM:

Wednesday, 25 Oct 2017 was tentatively chosen for the AGM. We will try to book St. Bart's Church hall for it as that is where the AGM has been held in past years.

Tuesday, 17 Oct. 2017 will be the regular NECA Board meeting.

The New Edinburgh News will be published on the first of October with any NECA business requiring at least two weeks notice available for the community.

NECTAR Update:

Sean Flynn reported that the New Edinburgh House has been listed with Sezlick Real Estate for \$999,000. They have had a few showings.

NECTAR has negotiated minimal payments with its mortgager for the moment, until there is a sale of the property. This will help them keep functioning for the time being.

The house is currently zoned "institutional" which means it could even be used as a boarding house. It is important that the property be rezoned to R4 which is residential just like the rest of New Edinburgh. It is also important that the purchaser be aware that the house is a heritage property in a heritage district - meaning that many restrictions will apply to any developments and/or changes a new owner may want to make.

Since the listing starts in August, NECTAR needs to have some answers fairly quickly. They would like a "Statement of Support" from NECA to help with getting the property rezoned. The Board agreed to this.

NECA Signatory:

With the departure of David Slinn NECA needs to have a third person to have signing authority for NECA cheques. Ann Davis moved and Sean Flynn seconded that Phillip Nowotny be designated at the third signing party. All agreed.

The question arose as to where to put the NECA mailbox in the event of the sale of New Edinburgh House. The Field House of the 3 C's was considered but there were some drawbacks with that location. Possibly the United Church Hall could be a new location.

Next NECA Meeting:

Tuesday, 19 September 2017 at 20:00 will be the next Board meeting. Planning for the AGM will take place.

The "Park Vision" exercise will be considered at this meeting also.

The meeting adjourned just after 22:00