

**Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy
Steering Committee Meeting #6
December 3, 2010
Youth Arena Hall, Smiths Falls**

Steering Committee Members Attendance: Steve Knechtel, Karen Currie, Sheldon Laidman, Doug Struthers, Judy Brown, Dennis Staples, Brenda Hurrle, Aubrey Churchill, Dan Grunig, Bill Thake, Jane Topping, Gary Davison, Phil Gerrard, Don Marrin, Pam Buell, Randy Malcolm, Lynn Clouthier, Sandra Candow, Bill Dobson, Doug Thompson

Secretariat: Pam Buell, Susan Millar, Melissa Francis

Observers: Taro Alps (Friends of the Tay Watershed Association), Manuel Stevens (Rideau Heritage Network)

Presenters: Mike Dwyer (Township of Rideau Lakes)

Regrets: Cliff Meness, John Gemmell, David Chernushenko, Larry York, Susan Freeman, Bill Glover, Chief Marsden, Mary Kirkham, Elizabeth Savill, Noelle Reeve

1. Welcome from Mayor Dennis Staples, Town of Smiths Falls

2. Approval of October 15, 2010 meeting minutes

- a. **MOVED** by Bill Thake. **SECONDED** by Brenda Hurrle. **CARRIED.**

3. Miscellaneous Action Items from October 15 meeting- Melissa Francis

- a. Further heritage policy information for other sites was presented. If more details regarding these sites are required, they should be requested from the Secretariat.
- b. PPS letter: This was revised to reflect October 15 discussions, signed by the Chair and mailed on October 21, 2010. All Steering Committee members have received an electronic copy.
- c. City of Ottawa thank you letters: Councillor Doug Thompson and Councillor Clive Doucet have received thank you letters from the Steering Committee to recognise the City of Ottawa's mapping proposal contribution to the Strategy. This was mailed on October 21, 2010.

4. Visual Assessment and the Rideau Corridor- Presentation by Mike Dwyer

At the August 13, 2010 Steering Committee meeting, the NCC presented one approach for a visual assessment along the Rideau Corridor using their own tools and expertise. Mike Dwyer (Planner, Township of Rideau Lakes) briefed the group on another visual assessment option he had learned through his own academic research and offered to provide further details at an upcoming meeting. Mike was present on December 3 to present this other approach and he touched on the following questions:

- Who should assess?
- What should be assessed?

- What is the goal of the assessment?
- How should it be done?

Mike presented the outcomes of a visual assessment, which lead him to believe that a visual assessment for the Rideau Corridor would be invaluable.

Outcomes:

- determining preferences by site or landscape typology
- determining areas of public significance
- determining sensitive areas of the visual landscape
- formulating broad policies for varying levels of landscape sensitivity
- using efforts and resources effectively and,
- monitoring to determine changes, trends, new threats etc.

5. Planners Group Work Plan/Discussion- Sheldon Laidman

Building on information from Mike's presentation, Sheldon presented details regarding part one of a two part work plan which was developed based on discussions and recommendations from the Planners Advisory Group meeting of November 5, 2010.

Step 1: Landscape Typology Determination

Previous research regarding various landscapes along the Rideau Canal system will be used to determine existing landscape typologies. This step will exist as a very broad level mapping exercise and will include ten to twenty landscape types. The estimated completion date is Spring 2011.

Step 2: Hiring of Consultant Team

The consultants will further refine the landscape typology work from Step 1. This step could be completed by mid 2011. *Note from Steering Committee: The public needs to be aware of an upcoming RFP/expression of interest.*

ACTION SECRETARIAT AND PLANNERS: A draft budget and RFP process will be developed and shared with the Steering Committee at the next meeting.

Step 3: Analyze Landscape of Canal System

The consultant will take the Landscape Typology decided upon and produce a detailed map of the Rideau Canal System.

Step 4: Set Up Landscape Preference Testing Regime

The Planners Advisory Group will work with the consultant team to set up the Preference Testing (as described in Mike Dwyer's presentation). This step could begin in 2012. *Note: Parks Canada is required to report back to UNESCO in 2012.*

Step 5: Report and Summarize Findings of the Preference Testing

The consultant team will develop mapping of the most preferred landscapes etc. and will follow up with a report of findings from the Preference Testing, along with refined mapping. Recommendations and next steps will also be developed by the consultants.

Step 6: Steering Committee Review of Report and Recommendations

The Steering Committee will review the consultant's report and recommendations and then begin public consultation. Part Two, which is the 'implementation' stage, will follow.

MOTION: That the Steering Committee accept the Proposed General Work Plan for Part One of the Landscape Strategy.

MOVED by Sandra Candow. **SECONDED** by Brenda Hurrell. **CARRIED**.

6. Status of Mapping Proposal- Sheldon Laidman

The City of Ottawa has been gathering mapping information from municipalities and Land Information Ontario. They are also attempting to secure aerial photographs from the Ministry of Natural Resources. Ottawa and the Planners Group have been concerned with how wide the swath of mapping should be. Each municipality has recommended to the City of Ottawa, which parts of their municipality they want to include; almost all municipalities prefer to use watershed boundaries. This will allow for a broad study area which can be pared down as required. It is estimated that the first stage of mapping will be completed in late January 2010. *Note from Bill Dobson: The Canadian Wildlife Federation has a substantial collection of aerial photographs.*

7. Planners Group recommendations from their meeting of November 5, 2010:

- a) That each municipality provide the City of Ottawa with a list of historic buildings.
- b) That the Steering Committee begin the formation of a Community Advisory Group.

8. New Strategy Video for Parks Canada website and Councils/Public- Pam Buell

- a) In the past, Parks Canada communications regarding the Strategy have remained relatively low key. New information is now being posted on the Parks Canada website and include meeting communiqués, public notices regarding upcoming events, a video etc.
- b) Recommendation / suggestion to include the Parks Canada website link on each Steering Committee organization website.

ACTION SECRETARIAT: Draft a Terms of Reference on how to develop a Community Advisory Group. This will be shared at the next Steering Committee meeting.

Note from Steering Committee: Any public presentations regarding the Community Advisory Group should include the broad City of Ottawa map.

ACTION SECRETARIAT: Develop a draft schedule/approach for community information sessions/open houses for Spring 2011. Who should be involved, what information should be communicated etc.

ACTION SECRETARIAT: Formally advise each municipality that a presentation/video from Parks Canada is available; contact Secretariat members if interested.

9. Correspondence

Students of the Queen's University School of Urban and Regional Planning have extended an invitation to members of the Steering Committee to attend a presentation of their recent Rideau Corridor research on December 8, 2010 at the Parks Canada office in Smiths Falls.

10. Round Table

- a) Doug Struthers recommended that a Friendship Agreement be formed between the Rideau Canal and the Grand Canal of China. This type of agreement will then allow individual communities the opportunity to twin with Chinese communities if they choose.

ACTION SECRETARIAT: Draft a resolution to encourage Parks Canada to pursue a Friendship Agreement between the Rideau Canal and the Grand Canal. This will then be passed by the Steering Committee, special interest groups etc. *Note from Doug Thompson: He has Chinese contacts that may assist with this.*

ACTION STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Pass a resolution within Councils to encourage Parks Canada to pursue a friendship agreement.

- b) Crown Land Patent Grants, Bill Dobson: Bill attended a meeting with Liz Marshall from the Collingwood area who spoke about such grants. Apparently, there are no restrictions on land obtained through these grants; the Planners Group may want to investigate this issue further as it may affect the Rideau Corridor in the future. Additional information can be obtained from groups such as the Lanark Landowners Association.
- c) Summer 2011 Boat Trips: Parks Canada should once again host council members, planners and representatives from local stakeholder groups to participate in boat based meetings. Areas of sensitivity, development issues etc. would be discussed, recorded and used in future Strategy work.

Next meeting: January 28, 2011. South Frontenac will be hosting and the meeting will be in Sydenham.