

**Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy
Steering Committee Meeting #7
January 28, 2011
Frontenac County Municipal Office, Glenburnie**

Steering Committee Members Attendance: Bill Thake, David Jones, Gary Davison, Jeff Scott, Karen Currie, Steve Knechtel, Jane Topping, Sandra Candow, Lynn Clouthier, Randy Malcolm, Aubrey Churchill, Bill Dobson, Dan Grunig, Terry Butler, Don Marrin, Sheldon Laidman, Judy Brown, Jim Graff

Secretariat: Pam Buell, Susan Millar, Melissa Francis

Presenters: Linda Dicaire (NCC), Paul Galipeau (Parks Canada), Ryan Jeffrey, Natasha Reaney and Sarah Stephenson (Queen's University School of Urban and Regional Planning)

Observers: David Taylor and Taro Alps (Friends of the Tay Watershed Association), Mary and Ed Farrar (Cataraqui River Trail Project), Andrew Jeanes (Rideau Heritage Network)

Regrets: Cliff Meness, Dennis Staples, Mark Gerretson, Susan Freeman

1. Welcome from Mayor Gary Davison, Township of South Frontenac

2. Approval of December 3, 2010 meeting minutes

- a. **MOVED** by Bill Thake. **SECONDED** by Aubrey Churchill. **CARRIED.**

3. Draft Terms of Reference for the Community Advisory Group

After receiving support from the Planners Advisory Group and the Steering Committee in December 2010, it was determined that the Secretariat would draft a Terms of Reference for the formation of a Community Advisory Group.

This draft was circulated to Steering Committee members prior to today's meeting and was then reviewed as a group. Discussions related to responsibilities and composition of the group, how to engage interested individuals, and eligibility criteria. Comments and revisions were recorded and the Secretariat will integrate these changes and re-distribute the draft for further comment.

ACTION SECRETARIAT: Integrate new comments and re-distribute Terms of Reference to Steering Committee for further comment.

4. Queen's University School of Urban and Regional Planning (SURP) Presentation: Tool-kit for development management along the Rideau Canal

Parks Canada and Queen's University SURP students have been working together to formulate options for a toolkit to manage development along the Rideau Canal. The SURP students were invited by Parks Canada to present an overview of their work to the Steering Committee.

Their final report (available by contacting their project team) includes:

1. An overview of 4 case studies of successful protection and preservation similar to the Rideau.
2. A synopsis of feedback gathered at a stakeholder workshop regarding the 4 case studies.
3. All recommended tool options.
4. A synopsis of stakeholder tool preferences.
5. A draft implementation strategy.

5. Proposal for digital screens along the Rideau Corridor: Linda Dicaire, NCC

Linda Dicaire, NCC Chief of Federal Design Approvals, Heritage and Archaeology, presented factual information regarding a proposal made by the Ottawa Convention Centre (OCC) for NCC review and approval, to install a digital screen of approximately 13.5m x 24.5m on the south facade of the Convention Centre. The proposal calls for the screen to feature approximately 25% artistic content, 25% programming information for the OCC and 50% commercial advertising and sponsorship content. The screen would be operational from 6AM to 10PM. This type of infrastructure is not permitted under existing municipal by-laws and does not respect the conditions of current NCC approvals granted to the Ottawa Convention Centre.

During the question period after Linda's presentation, the Committee members inquired if this proposal would affect the UNESCO designation. A representative of Parks Canada answered the question and indicated that such interventions might impact the continued designation status of the Rideau Canal but that this could not be presently confirmed because this determination had to be made by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee itself. Furthermore, ICOMOS has reviewed this type of proposal in the past and has expressed its concerns about the potential negative impacts on the values of World Heritage Sites and the importance of protecting their settings.

Steering Committee members felt that the screen would significantly affect the postcard, well known, iconic Capital views of the surrounding area, comprising Parliament Hill, the Rideau Canal and the Chateau Laurier. Approval of this screen would be setting an undesirable precedent for the Rideau Canal and for other local, national and international landmarks.

6. Draft RFP Update

A draft work plan for the Strategy was approved by the Steering Committee at their December 3, 2010 meeting. At that meeting, the Planners Group and Secretariat were asked to draft an RFP to undertake a Landscape Character Assessment of the Rideau Corridor. Susan Millar provided a preliminary draft for discussion and review. Susan is continuing to work on the draft RFP, incorporating feedback from the Planners Group. This draft will be available for review at the next Steering Committee meeting.

7. Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy Video

The Secretariat has developed a short video which summarizes the purpose and objectives of the Strategy, its accomplishments and future work. Its content is similar to the presentation that the Secretariat has been giving to municipal councils and will now replace that

presentation. The Steering Committee reviewed it and is satisfied with it being shown to interested groups. It will be posted on the Strategy's website in the near future and partners are welcome to post links to it on their own websites.

8. Rideau Canal – Grand Canal Friendship Agreement, draft resolution:

Deferred to next Steering Committee meeting

9. Correspondence:

- a. Email from Peter Au, Rideau Roundtable: potential meeting to review draft Terms of Reference for Community Advisory Group and solicit feedback
- b. Email from Manuel Stevens, Rideau Heritage Network: Request that the RHN and others have an opportunity to have input into the RFP and Terms of Reference for the Community Advisory Group
 - i. Chair will respond to Peter and Manuel and suggest we move forward with the Source Water Protection model for community involvement
- c. Letter from David Taylor, Friends of Tay Watershed Association: Further details regarding the importance of the Bobs Lake reservoir to the health and functioning of the Rideau Canal.
 - i. Chair has acknowledged and thanked David for his contribution. Letter has been filed appropriately for future reference.

10. Roundtable:

- a. Terry Butler (North Grenville) will keep the group up to date on Rideau Canal Festival developments.

Next Meeting: February 25, 2011
Montague Township