

Report CCR-PCD-27-14

To: Chair Wright and Members of the Planning and Community Development Committee

From: Sharon Vokes

Meeting Date: October 16, 2014

Subject: **Recommendations for Signage for Historical Communities**

Status: Recommendation adopted by Committee as amended per Resolution PCD111-14 by inserting the following clause: AND FURTHER THAT county staff circulate the research information to municipalities seeking any additional relevant information prior to finalizing the sign script and bring back a report with the recommended historic sign names; Endorsed by County Council November 4, 2014 per Resolution CC153-14; See Addendum from April 21, 2015;

Recommendation(s)

WHEREAS at the March 18, 2014 meeting of the Planning and Community Development Committee staff was directed to develop recommendations for the implementation of historic community signage on county owned roads;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report CCR-PCD-27-14 regarding recommendations for historic community signage be received and the recommendations contained within the report be endorsed;

AND THAT the Transportation Services' staff include the historic community signage criteria in its development of a comprehensive road signage policy;

AND FURTHER THAT the historic community signs identified in Report CCR-PCD-27-14 be purchased in 2014 and funded from the One Time Reserve;

AND FURTHER THAT the 2015 Transportation Services budget include funding to erect the signs in 2015;

AND FURTHER THAT County Council encourages its member municipalities to consider implementing the same criteria for historic community signage on local roads.

Background

Replacement of outdated and tired road signage has been a priority of County Council this year. At the March 18, 2014 meeting of the Planning and Community Development Committee a report with recommendations on road signage replacement was endorsed to be sent to the Transportation and Public Safety Committee for its consideration. The Transportation and Public Safety Committee subsequently considered the recommendations at its May 22, 2014 meeting and recommended adoption as well with a minor amendment regarding the size of signs for tertiary settlement areas. Council endorsed the recommendation at the June 3, 2014 council session.

The signage reports considered by the two committees did not deal with what historical community signage should look, or the criteria to determine what an historical community is. As a result, the Planning and Community Development Committee directed staff to research this subject and provide a report with recommendations by September, 2014. Regrettably, delays in obtaining some information related to the report resulted in delaying the report until the October committee meeting.

Staff at the County's Archives were most helpful in completing the research for this report. These staff regularly deal with what are often called "genealogical tourists" and they understand what makes up an historical community as well as the desire of the public to find and visit these sites.

Generally speaking, historical communities are those that for one reason or another did not grow or prosper; yet at one point in time were communities that people recognized. In some cases historical names have become less well known to new names established in the last 50 to 60 years. An example is a corner in Georgian Bluffs that is well known as Mennonite Corners. The historic name of this corner is actually Squire, and even a weather app on a cell phone identifies it by the historic name of Squire.

Criteria for Historic Communities

As noted above, historic communities for whatever reason failed to thrive and are not recognized within the County's Official Plan which is the guiding document for placement of community identification signage as approved by Council in June.

It is recommended that the following criteria be utilized in determining if the erection of an historic community sign on a county road is warranted:

The historic community must be recognized in either the applicable township history book or in the Tweedsmuir historical records (Women's Institutes)

And,

The historic community must meet two of the following criteria:

General store
Mill
Blacksmith Shop
School
Post Office
Church or other religious meeting house
Cemetery/cenotaph
Community centre
Structure housing fraternal organization (ie Orange Lodge, Masons, Knights of Columbus)
Hotel/Tavern

Using the above criteria the Archives' staff have identified 39 historic communities located on county owned roads that meet the criteria. These communities are listed in "Schedule A" included with this report.

Any additional requests for historical community signage will be vetted through the Archive staff and if the criteria are met, the signage will be erected by the Transportation Services Department.

It would also be beneficial if the same type of signage program for historic communities was implemented in each member municipality. Should a member municipality implement the same program, the Archives' staff would apply the same criteria on locally owned roads.

Design of Signage

The community identification signage is blue with white lettering. It is recommended that the historical signage be brown with off white lettering which is in keeping with historical site signage and what has been identified in some other locations. The brown signage is understood by the public as recognition of something historical in nature.

The recommended sign size is 12 inches by 36 inches and will look like the following:



Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology Considerations

There are no legal or information technology considerations related to this report.

There are financial implications related to the production and installation of the signs as this was not included in the 2014 budget. Based on the costs associated with purchase and erection of the community based signs, the total cost of purchasing and erecting the 39 historical community signs on county roads is estimated at \$10,000. Due to the lateness of the season, it is recommended that the signs be purchased in 2014 utilizing the one time reserve and that the Transportation Services 2015 budget include funding for erecting the signs in 2015.

As historical communities are identified they will be mapped for distribution to researchers at the Archives. As genealogical research progresses at the Archives, the next step that researchers like to embark on is to visit ancestral homes and communities. It will be an added level of service for staff in the Archives to be able to provide maps which clearly identify these historical communities to researchers.

Link to Strategic Goals / Priorities

The implementation of an historic signage program supports Goal 3.3 of championing arts, culture and heritage initiatives.

Attachments

[CCR-PCD-27-14 Schedule A Historic Community Signage Research Table - County Roads Only](#)

Respectfully submitted by,

Sharon Vokes
Clerk/Director of Council Services

