



**HALIFAX EXPLOSION 100TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WORKSHOP MINUTES
January 7, 2017**

PRESENT: Mr. Craig Walkington, Chair
Ms. Pat Jessup, Vice Chair
Ms. Marilyn Elliott
Mr. Barry Cahill
Mr. Dan O'Brien
Mr. William Robinson-Mushkat
Mr. David Sutherland
Ms. Renee Gruszecki

STAFF: Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant, Office of the Municipal Clerk

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/explosion/170107heaac-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. and the Committee adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:10 am at the Nova Scotia Community College – IT Campus, 5685 Leeds Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

The Chair indicated that the purpose of this workshop meeting is to define the contents of the new time capsule for the Fort Needham Memorial Bell Tower. The format will first hear from guest Alex McCleave, who was a member of the 1985 bell tower time capsule committee. The second part of the meeting will be for the Committee to determine what story they want the new time capsule to tell, and the third part of the meeting will brainstorm contents for the new time capsule.

3. HALIFAX EXPLOSION 100TH ANNIVERSARY TIME CAPSULE

The following information was before the Committee:

- Information from staff with content ideas, preservation requirements, final content process, and schedule
- October 2016 Time Capsule and Needham Memorial Bell Tower information, with attached reference materials on Time Capsules from the Canadian Conservation Institute
- Copy of Needham Park materials from the Halifax Regional Municipality Archives
- Copy of City Clerk's Office Halifax Explosion file from the Halifax Regional Municipality Archives
- Page 212 from *Shattered City* by Janet Kitz

The Chair introduced Mr. Alex McCleave, who spoke of his time involved with the planning of the 1985 time capsule for the Fort Needham Memorial Bell Tower, which at the time was just constructed.

Mr. McCleave noted others who were a part of that time capsule committee, including:

- Charlie Vaughn, former mayor
- Janet Kitz, historian and author
- Reg Prest, Halifax Dartmouth Bridge Commission Manager
- Dick MacLean
- Terry Sullivan

Mr. McCleave indicated that only Janet Kitz (residing locally) and Terry Sullivan (who now resides in BC) are still surviving.

Mr. McCleave advised that the 1985 time capsule was fibre glass, and reviewed a list of contents, which is noted on page 212 of *Shattered City* by Janet Kitz (a copy of said page was distributed to members), including:

- Halifax Relief Commission forms and reports
- A 1917 menus from the Halifax Hotel and the Green Lantern Restaurant
- A 1917 grocery bill from Constant Upham's grocery store
- A 1985 grocery receipt
- List of the dead from the 1918 Halifax City Directory
- Descriptions of the unidentified dead
- Reproductions of explosion photographs (mostly provided by Charlie Vaughan)
- Richmond School class portraits
- *A Common Sorrow and a Common Concern* by Reverend Charles Crowdis
- A 1917 coin
- The story of the bells, the Orr family (who donated the bells), and the bell tower
- Newspapers

- A Halifax Regional Police officer's business card
- A video tape

Mr. McCleave noted that in the end the time capsule would not fit in the space within the bell tower and had to be sanded down. Mr. McCleave clarified, at the request of the Committee, that the intent for the 1985 time capsule was for it to be opened at the 100th anniversary of the explosion in 2017, and for the contents to be displayed.

The Committee discussed the need to open the 1985 time capsule in a controlled environment, and whether to reinsert the 1985 time capsule ("time capsule #1"), or some of its contents, or reproductions of some of its contents with the 2017 time capsule ("time capsule #2").

MOVED by Pat Jessup, seconded by Will Robinson-Mushkat

THAT the Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Advisory Committee recommend that:

- 1. Time Capsule #1 not be reinserted in the bell tower monument;**
- 2. A list and eventual location of the contents of Time Capsule #1 be included in Time Capsule #2; and**
- 3. Time Capsule #1 items be put on display for the public.**

The Committee discussed who would be the custodian of the contents, where and for how long they would be displayed, indicating that the Municipal Archives are the custodians of Time Capsule #1, and HRM could negotiate with the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic for display, where there is a permanent Halifax Explosion exhibit. The Committee will discuss this with staff at a later date.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Chair invited members of the public in attendance to address the Committee.

Danny MacIntyre and his sister, Donna, indicated that their family has lived in North End Halifax for generations. He inquired whether they would be able to contribute items to the 2017 time capsule. Mr. MacIntyre indicated that his great-grandfather worked for the fire department and was killed in the explosion; his remains were never found. He advised that he wrote a song about the Halifax Explosion and produced a slide show to accompany the song, both of which he is interested in donating as an addition to the time capsule on behalf of his family.

Rose Porier, referring to the video tape that was included with the 1985 time capsule, cautioned the Committee to keep the format of any technology included in Time Capsule #2 in mind, and whether that technology would be obsolete at the time of the opening of the time capsule.

The Committee recessed at 9:52 am, and reconvened at 10:05 am.

The Chair suggested that the Committee at this time discuss what story they would like told which the opening of Time Capsule #2.

Pat Jessup noted that the Vision Statement developed by the Committee in 2015 is a very fitting direction, to which the Committee agreed.

The Committee discussed when Time Capsule #2 should be opened, with the following points noted:

- 100 years is the normal duration for time capsules.
- The time capsule for the Navy Centennial will be opened in 50 years.
- Less of a time period would keep interest stimulated in the explosion.
- A shorter period of 25 years would keep the time capsule in everyone's memory.
- There is a lot of effort involved in putting together the time capsule for such a short period of time.

- If the time capsule is opened in 50 years, it would coincide with the 200th anniversary of confederation.

MOVED by Pat Jessup, seconded by Renee Gruszecki

THAT Time Capsule #2 be opened on the 150th anniversary of the Halifax Explosion in 2067.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Committee discussed the possibility of putting a plaque on the bell tower that states the time capsule is inside and it is to be opened on the 150th anniversary in 2067. It was further noted that this may encourage vandalism or theft.

The Committee discussed what story they would like to be told with the opening of Time Capsule #2 upon the 150th anniversary of the Halifax Explosion in 2067.

MOVED by Pat Jessup, seconded by Marilyn Elliott

THAT the story be told for Time Capsule #2 with the following guidelines:

- 1. Reflect the Vision Statement***
- 2. Restrict the focus to the disaster and its immediate impact.**
- 3. Provide reflection on the 100th anniversary commemoration, and contain select commemorative items.**
- 4. Artifacts need to be of a general and not personal nature.**
- 5. Should contain artifacts from 1917 explosion.**
- 6. Artifacts should be broadly representative only of communities directly affected by the explosion.**
- 7. Contents should be in keeping with the Canadian Conservation Institute guidelines for time capsules.**

***Vision Statement (of January 14, 2015)**

The Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Commemoration will honour the memory of those who died and suffered as a result of the explosion, will educate current and future generations about the significance of the event, and will celebrate the resilience of Halifax in rising from destruction to restore the full potential of the city and its people.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Committee recessed at 11:05 am, and reconvened at 11:16 am.

The Committee agreed to the Time Capsule Schedule set out on page 2 of the staff document entitled "Time Capsule Guidelines and Schedule for January 7, 2017 Work Shop".

The Committee discussed content ideas for Time Capsule #2, as follows:

- Coin
- Stamp
- George Elliot Clarke poem
- 100th anniversary event program
- Official letters – Queen, Prime Minister, Premier, Open letter to future residents from the Mayor
- Bibliography of Halifax Explosion publications
- Paul Erikson's History of Fort Needham
- Updated list of fatalities since 1985
- Catalogue of contemporary works of art specific to the explosion from 1917
- Catalogue of projects funded by the Explosion Grants program

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- 1917 explosion artifacts
- Maps and plans of 1917 and 2017
- Grocery receipt from 2017, and copies of the 1917 & 1985 receipts.
- Local school art project
- Newspaper articles re: 100th anniversary commemoration
- Local restaurant menu
- Plans for Fort Needham park restoration project
- Report to Council to approve the Administrative Order for the 100th Anniversary Commemoration.
- List of 100th Anniversary Committee members (start to finish)
- Map of the flora that survived the explosion
- Map of areas devastated and damaged by the explosion

The Committee agreed that this is a first draft of the contents list, which will be discussed with staff and can be amended.

The Chair thanked all for attending.

4. ADDED ITEMS - NONE

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Jennifer Weagle
Legislative Assistant