



**HALIFAX EXPLOSION 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
April 19, 2017**

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

**OTHERS:** Councillor Lindell Smith, District 8- Peninsula North

**STAFF:** Carolle Koziak-Roberts, Landscape Architect, Policy and Planning  
Kellie McIvor, Cultural Asset Manager, Parks & Recreation  
Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant, Office of the Municipal Clerk  
Sharon Chase, Legislative Support, 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/170419heaac-agenda.php>*

*The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. and the Committee adjourned at 4:58 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm at the Nova Scotia Community College- IT Campus, 5685 Leeds Street, Halifax.

The Chair welcomed members of the public in attendance.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 16, 2017**

Grammar and spelling errors were noted for correction.

MOVED by Renee Gruszecki, seconded by Dan O'Brien

**THAT the minutes of March 16, 2017 be approved as amended.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

Additions:

- 7.1.7 Correspondence from Janet Maybee dated April 16, 2017
- 7.1.8 Correspondence from Genevieve Graham dated April 17, 2017
- 7.1.9 Correspondence from Mary Lou Graham dated April 17, 2017
- 10.1 The creation of a Halifax Explosion Commemorative Coin

MOVED by Pat Jessup, seconded by Renee Gruszecki

**THAT the agenda be approved as amended.**

Two-third majority vote required.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

**4.1 Update - Call for Living Halifax Explosion Survivors**

Marilyn Elliott discussed a concern regarding the definition of survivor being used for the Call for Living Halifax Explosion Survivors on the HRM Halifax Explosion webpage.

At this time, there was a request from a member of the public to speak to the Committee, to which the Chair and Committee agreed.

Ann Louise Derosier questioned the purpose of a call for survivors and suggested that the family experiences, how they were affected and the stories handed down were also of great importance. She felt that overlooking these was a missed opportunity and that there should be a way to incorporate and acknowledge this in the planned ceremony and events. The Chair clarified that the purpose of the call was to be able to personally invite living survivors to the ceremony and to individually recognize them at that time. The planning of this ceremony is presently underway. The Chair asked that any specific recommendations for the event be sent to the Legislative Assistant.

Discussion continued around the definition of survivor and how it is being used in this circumstance. Consideration was given to re-defining the term “survivor” or removing it completely from the website.

MOVED by Marilyn Elliott, seconded by Barry Cahill

**THAT the Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Advisory Committee request that the Call for Survivors on the HRM Halifax Explosion webpage be changed to exclude the term “definition of survivor” and read “The Municipality is looking for anyone who lived in Halifax, Dartmouth, or the former County of Halifax in December 1917.”**

**MOTION DEFEATED.**

**5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS - NONE**

**6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

**6.1 Correspondence from Linda Campbell and Jim McDermott dated March 15, 2017**

A request has been made to include a copy of their film in the both the physical and virtual time capsule. Kellie McIvor, Cultural Asset Manager, Parks and Recreation will investigate the best practices for and technology for its preservation and report back to the Committee.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**7.1 Correspondence**

**7.1.1 From J. David Scanlon dated February 15, 2017**

Correspondence received.

The Committee requested that the Legislative Assistant respond, encouraging Mr. Scanlon in the publication of his father’s manuscript.

It was noted that Barry Cahill is also in contact with Mr. Scanlon.

**7.1.2 From John Boileau dated March 22, 2017**

Correspondence received.

Corporate Communications have approved the request to use the Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary emblem in this publication.

**7.1.3 From Elaine Selig, Atlantic Pilotage Authority, dated March 22, 2017**

Correspondence received.

The Committee requested that the Legislative Assistant respond with an acknowledgement and inform them that groups and the public will be invited to lay wreaths which is being organized by the Culture and Events team.

**7.1.4 From Kjetil Saugestad, Norwegian public broadcaster, NRK, dated March 22, 2017**

Correspondence received.

The Committee requested that the Legislative Assistant respond with an acknowledgment thanking them for their interest. They could also be directed to [100years100stories.ca](http://100years100stories.ca) as a resource for their research, and asked to be kept informed of any opportunity to view the project once completed.

The Committee expressed an interest in following this project.

**7.1.5 From Kevin Quigley, MacEachen Institute for Public Policy and Governance (Dalhousie University) dated March 27, 2017**

Correspondence received.

The Committee requested that the Legislative Assistant respond with an acknowledgement and inform them of any events currently scheduled to facilitate their planning.

**7.1.6 From Capt. Malcolm Mathison, National Vice Chairman, The Merchant Navy Association (UK)**

Correspondence received.

The Committee requested that the Legislative Assistant respond with an acknowledgement and provide them with the local Merchant Navy Association contact information as per their request.

**7.1.7 Correspondence from Janet Maybee dated April 16, 2017**

Correspondence received.

The Committee requested that the Legislative Assistant respond acknowledging their offer and suggestions.

Kelly McIvor suggested the Committee discuss this further during agenda item 9.2.2.

**7.1.8 Correspondence from Genevieve Graham dated April 17, 2017**

Correspondence received.

The Committee provided suggestions for the writer, including a literary event planned at the Central Library in late May, Word on the Street festival and Evenings at Government House may also be events to note.

**7.1.9 Correspondence from Mary Lou Graham dated April 17, 2017**

Correspondence received.

The Committee requested that the Legislative Assistant respond with an acknowledgment and share the HRM Halifax Explosion webpage and the 100years100stories.ca website where they will be able find updates on events as they come available.

**7.2 Petitions - NONE**

**7.3 Presentations - NONE**

**8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE**

**9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

**9.1 STAFF**

## **9.2 COMMITTEE**

### **9.2.1 Planning for Needham Memorial Bell Tower Time Capsule #2**

The following was before the Committee:

- Time Capsule Update Memo dated April 19, 2017
- A copy of Administrative Order 2014-005-GOV dated June 10, 2014
- A listing of Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Advisory Committee members
- Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Program Guiding Principles

The Committee reviewed the chart listing items for inclusion and made further decisions on outstanding pieces. Kelly Mclvor, Cultural Asset Manager, Parks and Recreation and her team will be physically gathering these items in May where possible.

- Confirmation by George Elliott Clarke regarding his poem has yet to be received.
- The Committee would like to request an official letter from the Governor General as well.
- It was decided that there will be no inclusion of 1917 Explosion artifacts. These artifacts should be placed where they can be shared with the public.
- It was agreed that there are many maps for consideration and that this should be a specific topic moved forward to the next Committee meeting.
- It was agreed that a grocery receipt should be included to reference the earlier ones from Time Capsule #1. A photograph or scan of the older receipts would be included in time Capsule #2.
- Further detail will be needed on the local school art project to determine what is physically included in the Time Capsule. St. Joseph A. MacKay school is working on a hand painted tile project which may be something to consider. Peter Greechan, HRM Community Grants, will be able to provide this information.
- A list of Committee members will be included once it is updated and some corrections made.
- Renee Gruszecki suggested that the inclusion of the insurance map be replaced with a photomapping project which could be an extension of the 1987 photo exhibition "A Moment in Time". The Chair asked Renee if she could take a lead on this and present to the Committee at the next meeting.
- It was confirmed that an image and description of the gold coin from HRM Archives would be included.

The Committee then discussed new items for consideration in the Time Capsule.

- The Committee endorsed including the documentary film "Halifax Explosion the Deaf Experience" (see agenda item 6.1). The film will need to be vetted and reviewed first. It may be better suited to the Virtual Time Capsule. It was noted that this was a project that received funding through the Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grants Program.
- The Committee discussed the inclusion of the book "Shattered City" by Janet Kitz. It was agreed that this is considered a definitive account of the event. Janet Kitz has also been recognized as the Official Explosion Historian by the city. A signed copy or 1<sup>st</sup> edition could be a special addition to the Time Capsule.
- Should a Halifax Explosion Commemorative Coin be produced (see agenda item 10.1), it would be included in the Time Capsule.

In concluding this review, the Chair asked for confirmation that the items chosen address all of the guiding principles laid out by the Committee. It was agreed that these have been met.

### **9.2.2 Discussion of a Virtual Time Capsule**

William Robinson-Mushkat reviewed the pros and cons of two options; an online system/App or the use of an external hard drive or flash drive. The committee discussed the logistics of collecting the information as well as the vetting and curating of what is included. Devising a submission process and resource

challenges are two areas that need to be considered. It was suggested that 100 Years/100 Stories through the Province may be better suited for this. To encourage participation there would need to be no restrictions to amount of information accepted making it more inclusive. Like a physical time capsule a virtual time capsule would be sealed on a specific date and time. The challenges of digital preservation must also be considered. Kelly MacIvor, Cultural Asset Manager, Parks and Recreation will share this discussion with her team. The Committee agreed that commemoration activities should also be captured in the Virtual Time Capsule. This item will be further discussed at the next meeting.

**10. ADDED ITEMS**

**10.1 Creation of a Halifax Explosion Commemorative Coin**

The Committee discussed the opportunity to produce a commemorative coin much like the challenge coins issued by the military to mark special occasions. It could be used for presentation purposes with the potential to sell it as a souvenir depending on the volume of production. This would also be an item worth adding to the Time Capsule. A similar coin was produced to mark both the 75<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the Halifax Explosion. The Committee agreed that this was worth further consideration.

MOVED by Dan O'Brien, seconded by Will Robinson-Mushkat

**THAT the Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Advisory Committee request that staff investigate the production of a commemorative coin, for multiple uses in the lead up to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Wednesday, May 17, 2017, 3-5pm, Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council meeting space, Alderney Gate, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Sharon Chase  
Legislative Support