

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – JUNE 18, 2007

DESIGNATED PROPERTY GRANT, MOUNT LEBANON SCHOOL HOUSE, 5970 KIRBY ROAD

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Recreation & Culture, recommends approval of the following Heritage Vaughan recommendation:

- 1) That the Designated Property Grant in the amount of \$3,092.02 for the reconstruction and replacement of the original belfry of the former Mount Lebanon School House located at 5970 Kirby Road in Vaughan, be approved.

Economic Impact

Funds for the Designated Property Grant program in the amount of \$3,092.02 have been budgeted for in the 2007 Cultural Services Budget.

Communications Plan

Heritage Vaughan reviewed and recommended approval of the subject Designated Property Grant at its meeting of January 17, 2007.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval of the Heritage Vaughan recommendation to approve the Designated Property Grant payout for the reconstruction and replacement of the original belfry of the former Mount Lebanon School House located at 5970 Kirby Road.

Background - Analysis and Options

The owner of the designated property located at 5970 Kirby Road, the former Mount Lebanon School House, applied for a Designated Property Grant to reconstruct and replace the original belfry of the former school house.

The school house was constructed in 1876 and designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act in 1982. The structure is currently used as a professional pottery studio. The structure is an excellent example of an Ontario 19th century one-room school house. The building is unique as it retains its original board and batten exterior and entrance areas.

The Designated Property Grant is funded by the City of Vaughan. The Grant program was initiated in 1985 to assist heritage property owners in the maintenance and restoration of Designated heritage structures in the City of Vaughan. All work eligible under the terms and conditions of the said program requires Designated property owners to restore heritage property using original materials and restore property to original design, form and structural soundness.

In order to receive a Grant, property owners must submit proposed work to the Heritage Vaughan Committee for review of work eligibility and receive approval prior to initiating the project as per Grant guidelines. After completion of the restoration/renovation work, Heritage Vaughan reviews all completed work and submitted invoices to determine eligible grant amounts. The subject Grant program was initiated with the intention of offsetting increased costs as a result of the restoration/reproduction of original features and materials. Property owners must match all grant amounts. The maximum grant amount is \$5,000.00 per Designated property.

The belfry reconstruction and installation has been completed as required under the Designated Property Grant guidelines/requirements. An invoice in the amount of \$6,184.04 was submitted to City staff for the total amount of the work. Under the Grant guidelines, the City may pay up to 50% of the total cost of the eligible restoration/repair work, to a maximum \$5,000.00 per property. Culture staff has inspected the building and can confirm the reconstruction and replacement of the belfry was completed as per the Grant terms and requirements.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

Section 4.6 of the Vaughan Vision encourages the preservation and enhancement of the natural and built heritage environment and encourages the preservation of significant historical structures and communities.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources to implement all points outlined in this report have been allocated and approved.

Regional Implications

There are no regional implications associated with the approval of this report.

Conclusion

The Designated Property Grant program assists Designated property owners in the repair and/or restoration of heritage property and helps in offsetting increased costs due to the restoration/reproduction of original features and materials. The reconstructing and replacement of the belfry of the former school building has been completed using original materials and design and all work has been inspected by Culture staff to ensure the work was completed as per Designated Property Grant requirements.

Attachments

None.

Report Prepared By

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Respectfully submitted,

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Commissioner of Community Services