

**3. DEPUTATIONS****4. READING AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

- 4.1. THAT the minutes of the meeting September 7, 2023 be approved.

Moved by M. Stoliker  
Seconded by C. Hayes

CARRIED

**5. GENERAL BUSINESS**

- 5.1. Heritage Demolition Permit - 397-399 Front Street

Reference materials regarding the Heritage Designation, multiple engineering and hazardous materials evaluations (2013 to 2023) and the current Demolition Permit request were circulated to the Heritage Belleville Committee members in advance of the meeting.

M. Rashotte of MCR Properties and S. Duncan, Assistant Controller, Royal LePage, jointly presented their concerns regarding the 397-399 Front Street by highlighting their key points in the reference materials. There is risk that the structure will be unable to withstand the upcoming 2023-2024 winter weather and this is a key point in the timing of this current application.

The August 15, 2023 Roney Engineering review states that the retention-restoration of the façade is no longer feasible. The proposed building uses and the interior design is under consideration and not available for review.

Chair Fisk requested comments from M. Rashotte regarding the timelines where earlier evaluations did not result in substantive action to restore the original heritage structure. M. Rashotte spoke at length of his intent from 2014 to reinforce and rebuild and the roadblocks encountered such as structural foundation, building codes, hazardous materials and the like. Each year has added to the viability issue of retaining the original building and to some extent, is now posing an issue to the building to the south.

M. Stoliker asked for confirmation that all feasible features would be restored and placed back onto the new building. M. Rashotte confirmed this aspect is key to his plan to rebuild to the original front façade.

M. Stoliker mentioned the LiDAR scans of the property and these should be shared with the city to ensure the façade is restored.

Chair Fisk expressed concern that the Demolition Application does not allow for specific information for the “after” on adaptive reuse. M. Rashotte confirmed

his commitment to the front façade and spoke to his evidenced commitment to the Belleville downtown core and building heritage through his ownership and work with the Empire Theatre and other properties; and clarified there is no specified timeline for the rebuild of the property and façade as this would need to be “planned right”. He also restated the safety risk of the existing building remaining in place during the challenging winter weather of 2023/24.

There were no other immediate questions for M. Rashotte and S. Duncan. Chair Fisk thanked the guests for their time.

The Heritage Committee members discussed the issues and safety concerns and concluded the following on the Request for Demolition Permit:

THAT Heritage Belleville recommends to Belleville City Council to Repeal By-Law Number 2004-67 to permit the demolition of the building located at 397-399 Front Street subject to the preservation and restoration of the salvageable historically designated elements for future use in the new construction that replicates the 1870 façade; AND

THAT the City of Belleville review the Property Standards By-Law Number 2012-79

Moved by P. Spice  
Seconded by M. Stoliker

CARRIED

## 5.2. Doors Open Recap

Chair Fisk provided attendance numbers as reported from the event participants. The 2023 Doors Open was a success as Glanmore and City Hall respectively reporting 387 and 285 visitors and other venues ranging from 35 to 200 visitors.

Chair Fisk has made a preliminary review of the Visitor Survey forms received and noted format improvements to incorporate for future Doors Open events.

P. Spice will compile all results from the Visitor Survey forms for the November Heritage Belleville Committee meeting.

M. Stoliker provided an update on the Event Evaluation form for Doors Open Ontario which will be submitted the week of October 9th. The committee was also advised that Doors Open Ontario reported 4,043 visitations to their online portal.

Chair Fisk advised that Doors Open Belleville 2023 operated on a budget of \$989, which included the printing of 200 surveys and maps.