

Staff Report 2020-0328

Meeting Date: November 17, 2020

Subject: Designated Heritage Property Grant Program - Fall 2020

Submitted By: Sarah Parish, Planning Technician, Planning Services, Planning

RECOMMENDATION

That the recommended Designated Heritage Property Grant Program Fall 2020 recipients listed in Schedule A to Staff Report 2020-0328, be approved; and

That the remaining 2020 funding of \$10,548.96 be contributed to the Heritage Property reserve to fund the 2021 Heritage Property Grant program.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Designated Heritage Property Grant program (DHPG) provides financial assistance to designated heritage property owners for the maintenance and restoration of their properties. There are two allocations in a calendar year, one in the Spring and one in Autumn if remaining funds are available.
- The DHPG provides grants of 50% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$4,000 per grant. A single property is eligible to receive two (2) grants in the calendar year if they meet the application guidelines.
- In 2017, the DHPG program was expanded to include commercial and industrial properties designated under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act (the "Act") in the Bolton Heritage Conservation District.
- The Town received sixteen (16) applications in the fall application round, which were screened and evaluated by the Planning Technician, Heritage Resource Officer and the Heritage Review Group (members of Heritage Caledon) against the DHPG guidelines. Of the applications received, eleven (11) were approved for the proposed work that was deemed eligible for DHPG funding. Five (5) properties were not approved for funding as the work either; did not meet the eligibility of the DHPG, the property has an outstanding contravention, the property was not designated under the "Act," or the application was withdrawn.
- The 2020 funds available for the DHPG is \$65,000.
- The Heritage Review Group (Review Group) recommends allocation of \$28,083.04 to eleven (11) applicants with the remaining \$10,584.96 going towards the Heritage Property reserve to fund the 2021 Heritage Property Grant program.

DISCUSSION

The DHPG was established by By-law 2006-34 as a financial incentive program to promote and support stewardship of designated heritage properties. Originally administered for the Town by the Caledon Heritage Foundation, administration was returned to the Town in 2010 (Council resolution 2010-032).

The program's Guidelines are established by By-law 2013-099, as amended. In 2019 the by-law was amended to enable commercial and industrial properties included in the HCD the ability to apply for the Heritage Grant Program.

The Review Group entails a subcommittee of Heritage Caledon, the Planning Technician and Heritage Resource Officer. In accordance with By-law 2013-099, the Review Group is required to report to Council with its allocation recommendations for DHPG funds.

2020 Applications

The Town has received sixteen (16) heritage grant applications. All grant applications were reviewed by the Planning Technician and Heritage Resource Officer to ensure the completeness of the applications before being provided to the Review Group. Of the sixteen applications the following list provides a breakdown of eligibility:

- Eleven (11) properties met the qualifying criteria for the Heritage Grant Program with four (4) of the properties receiving retroactive grant support for emergency repair/restoration work on their properties.
- One (1) property did not meet the qualifying criteria for a Heritage Grant as the proposed project did not meet the qualifying criteria for eligible work;
- One (1) property was not eligible as there is currently an outstanding contravention on the property;
- One (1) property is not designated under Part IV or V of the “Act” and therefore does not meet the qualifying criteria for a Heritage Grant;
- Two (2) properties withdrew their DHPG applications. One property was unable to submit the required documents before the October 2nd, 2020 deadline, and the other applicant did not wish to submit the required documentation to have his application deemed “complete” in accordance with the DHPG program guidelines.

The Review Group evaluated the applications against the criteria for eligible work outlined in the program Guidelines, namely that the work:

- Has not yet been initiated at the time of application;
- Is compatible and consistent with the design or physical value, historical value and contextual value of the property;
- Serves to rehabilitate the building or property by stabilizing and protecting existing architectural heritage attributes and/or other character defining elements;
- Is consistent with good heritage conservation practices;
- If a restoration serves to help restore the building or property by replicating lost or damaged architectural heritage attributes and/or other character defining elements that were once part of the building fabric or property;
- Is executed in such a manner as not to detract from or diminish the cultural heritage value of the property;
- Is consistent with the Town of Caledon by-laws and policies, along with relevant provincial and federal regulations and codes.

Eligible work includes the costs of professional fees, labour, materials and equipment.

- The DHPG provides grants of 50% of eligible costs for maintenance and restoration projects to a maximum of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) per grant. A single property is eligible to receive two (2) grants in the calendar year at the discretion of Council and subject to available annual funding. In the event the second grant is approved, the applicant waives their right to apply for a grant under the Designated Heritage Property Grant Program in the following calendar year for the same Designated Heritage Property.

The Community Services 2020 Operating Budget allocates \$65,000 for the DHPG.

The total estimated project costs for the work associated with the Fall 2020 applications is \$69,297.80. Of this amount, \$28,083.04 is eligible for grant funding based on 50% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$4,000 per grant.

The Review Group is recommending the allocation of \$28,083.04 as shown on Schedule A to this report and summarized below:

- Allocation of grants to eleven (11) eligible applicants.

Upon completion of the work and confirmation of paid invoices, the Review Group, Planning Technician, and Heritage Resource Officer will undertake a site inspection to ensure the work is satisfactory prior to processing the grant claim.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is recommended that the eleven (11) grants listed in Schedule A be approved, at a total cost of \$28,083.04 funded from the Designated Heritage Property Grant Program. The 2020 budget for the Designated Heritage Property Grant Program is \$65,000 under the Planning Department operating budget account #: 01-02-405-44070-365-62319. In Spring 2020, funds of \$26,368.00 were awarded for heritage grants. The remaining balance of \$10,584.96 (\$65,000 - \$26,368.00 - \$28,083.04) will be added to the 2021 Heritage Grant Program through the Heritage Property Reserve.

COUNCIL WORK PLAN

Connected Community – Preserve heritage and natural resources

ATTACHMENTS

Schedule A: 2020 Heritage Grant Program Summary (Fall)