



Memorandum

To: The Historic Preservation Commission
From: Niall Connolly
Date: March 22nd, 2024
Re: Bishop's Granary

Introduction

The Town has invested in a concrete pad and landscaping to create a setting for the historic Bishop's Granary. This work was partly funded by the donor bricks, which are also now installed. Staff suggests that the next steps to completing this project are:

1. Carrying out any necessary structural repairs to ensure the longevity of the structure, while maintaining the historic integrity of the building.
2. Taking photographs of all of the writing/ engravings on the door and inside the building.
3. Adding plexi-glass at the doorway to prevent entry, but allow visitors to view inside.
4. Adding an interpretive plaque or sign to tell some of the history of the building.
5. If budget allows, replacing the roof with wooden shingles.
6. Assembling items typical of the era and use of the structure to 'stage' the interior of the building.

Current Progress

Working with Commissioner Bob Carlton, the Town has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) from contractors with experience working with historic structures. The closing date is April 5th. The intention is that the successful contractor would address items 1, 3 and 5 of the above list.

Commissioner Carlton is also arranging for photographs (item 2).

Commissioner Krause has expressed a willingness to write the text which would go on the interpretive plaque (item 4). The research which is being done by Korral Broschinsky (historian) should help provide some of the content for that plaque. The construction of the sign itself has not yet been considered.

Assembling antiques or props (item 6) may be a more gradual process. Staff is in possession of a historic weighing scale that can be used, and the Town will soon be taking possession of a number of items which had been gathered for the history center. It is possible that some of these items could be used in the granary.

Budget Issues

The project has been partially funded by the donor bricks. The Town's 2023-2024 budget also allocated money to the granary project, and a healthy portion of that budget remains unspent. This should be sufficient to cover much of the planned work. However, the new fiscal year starts on July 1st 2024, and

there is no guarantee that the Town Council will re-allocate that money in next year's budget. Moreover, the Town institutes a spending freeze for about the last six weeks of every fiscal year. This commences on May 15th. There is therefore very limited time to spend the remaining budget this year. Although staff has made the request that this budget allocation is carried forward to next year, early indications are that this may not happen.

Action

Staff recommends that firstly, the Commission decides if the proposed steps are the direction they wish to take with this project. If so, then staff recommends that the Commission prioritizes completion of any items which will cost money before May 15th. After that date, there is uncertainty that funding for this project will still be available.