

Heritage Burlington

Heritage Planner Update: April 14, 2021 (virtual)

1. Consultation, re: final staff recommendations for Heritage Property Tax Rebate Program expansion to eligible commercial heritage properties

- Further to the update at the March 10, 2021 Heritage Burlington meeting, staff have prepared a report and amending by-law to implement an expansion to the Heritage Property Tax Rebate Program to include designated commercial heritage properties.
- Council approved \$15,000 funding for this purpose through the 2021 Operating Budget on March 3, 2021, which is equivalent to a 20 percent rebate for those eligible commercial heritage properties. There are currently 8 designated commercial heritage properties in the City of Burlington.
- The Heritage Property Tax Rebate Program is currently implemented through By-law 61-2016 (attached). Staff have prepared Draft By-law XX-2021, which proposes amendments to the definitions of “Eligible Heritage Property” and “Heritage Property Tax Rebate Program”, as well as amendments to Section 9, which outlines the amount of the rebate depending on the tax class of the property. For commercial properties, the available rebate amount will be “twenty percent (20%) of the taxes levied for City and school purposes for the 2021 tax year and each year after. Other than the amendments that are outlined in the draft amending by-law, all other regulations and requirements of By-law 61-2016 remain in effect. The Draft By-law XX-2021 is attached.
- Implementation for this program expansion is expected for the 2021 tax year (with applications due early 2022).
- The report and amending by-law will be proceeding to the Community Planning, Regulation and Mobility Committee meeting on May 4, 2021.
- **Heritage Burlington is asked to:**
 - **Review the attached materials, including By-law 61-2016 and the Draft Amending By-law XX-2021; and**
 - **Pass a motion supporting the recommended amendments to the Heritage Property Tax Rebate Program.**

2. FYI / follow-up, re: Heritage Burlington finance-related questions

- In response to recent questions from members of the committee, staff will provide a brief overview of the finances available to the committee as well as sources of funding for the City’s incentive programs, including the Community Heritage Fund.