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Aug 28, 2020

Walter Frank McCall (P389)
Detritus Consulting
48 Charles Brantford ON N3T 1B3

RE: Review and Entry into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports: Archaeological Assessment Report Entitled, "Stage 3 Archaeological Assessment H1 (AfGv-174) 7253 Rainham Road Part of Lot 15, Concession 1 North of Road, Part of Lot 15 Concession 1 South of Road and Part of Rainham Road Allowance, Geographic Township of Dunn, Haldimand County ", Dated Dec 6, 2019, Filed with MTCS Toronto Office on Dec 18, 2019, MTCS Project Information Form Number P389-0429-2019, MTCS File Number 0010093

Dear Dr. McCall:

This office has reviewed the above-mentioned report, which has been submitted to this ministry as a condition of licensing in accordance with Part VI of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c 0.18.¹ This review has been carried out in order to determine whether the licensed professional consultant archaeologist has met the terms and conditions of their licence, that the licensee assessed the property and documented archaeological resources using a process that accords with the 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* set by the ministry, and that the archaeological fieldwork and report recommendations are consistent with the conservation, protection and preservation of the cultural heritage of Ontario.

The report documents the assessment/mitigation of the study area as depicted in Figure 4 and Figure 5 of the above titled report and recommends the following:

Given the presence of material culture dating to the first generation of settlement in Dunn Township, H1 (AfGv-174) fulfills the criteria for a Stage 4 mitigation of impacts, as per Section 3.4.2, Standard 1b of the Standards and Guidelines (Government of Ontario 2011) and retains further CHVI. A Stage 4 archaeological mitigation of impacts to the site is recommended.

The MHSTCI prefers that sites recommended for Stage 4 mitigation of impacts be avoided and protected rather than excavated, as per Section 7.9.4, Standard 2 of the Standards and Guidelines (Government of Ontario 2011). Options to reduce or eliminate impacts to archaeological sites include redesigning the Study Area, excluding the archaeological site area from the Study Area, or incorporating the area of the archaeological site into the Study Area but without alteration, as outlined in Section 3.5 of the Standards and Guidelines (Government of Ontario 2011a). If these options are not feasible, Stage 4 archaeological mitigation by hand excavation is an alternative.

In consultation with the client, the Stage 4 mitigation of H1 (AfGv-174) by avoidance and protection is not a viable option. As such, a Stage 4 archaeological mitigation by hand excavation is recommended, conducted according to Section 4.2 of the Standards and Guidelines (Government of Ontario 2011).

According to Section 4.2.7, Standard 2 of the Standards and Guidelines (Government of Ontario 2011), the Stage 4 mitigation of archaeological sites that mostly date after 1830 must include the hand excavation of all midden areas, followed by mechanical topsoil removal ('MTR') across the remainder of the site. Based on the results of the Stage 3 assessment, however, no midden areas were identified on site.

Therefore, it is recommended that the Stage 4 excavation at H1 (AfGv-174) comprise MTR only in order to identify any potential cultural features or evidence of original architecture relating to the earliest occupation of the property. The Stage 4 MTR must be completed in accordance with Section 4.2.3 and Table 4.1 of the Standards and Guidelines (Government of Ontario 2011). The entire limits of the site, as determined by the previous Stage 2 and Stage 3 assessments, will be subject to MTR employing a straight-edged ditching bucket that pulls the soil away from the exposed surface. The subsoil surface will then be immediately shovel shined and examined for any evidence of subsurface cultural features. If any subsurface cultural features are encountered, they will be recorded and excavated by hand in accordance with Section 4.2.2, Standard 7 of the Standards and Guidelines (Government of Ontario 2011). Any additional architectural or structural remains that are encountered will be documented with scale drawings and photographs as per Section 4.2.7, Standard 5 of the Standards and Guidelines (Government of Ontario 2011).

The pre-contact Aboriginal component comprised eight pieces of Onondaga chipping detritus, one biface and one preform from six units scattered throughout the site. Given the results of the Stage 3 assessment, wherein no Stage 3 test unit produced more than four pre-contact Aboriginal artifact, the pre-contact Aboriginal component of H1 (AfGv-174) does not meet any of the criteria for additional assessment, as outlined in Section 3.4 of the Standards and Guidelines (Government of Ontario 2011), and retains no further CHVI.

Based on the information contained in the report, the ministry is satisfied that the fieldwork and reporting for the archaeological assessment are consistent with the ministry's 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* and the terms and conditions for archaeological licences. This report has been entered into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports. Please note that the ministry makes no representation or warranty as to the completeness, accuracy or quality of reports in the register.

Should you require any further information regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Heather Kerr
Archaeology Review Officer

cc. Archaeology Licensing Officer
James Warren, T. Johns Consulting
Mike Evers, Haldimand County

¹ In no way will the ministry be liable for any harm, damages, costs, expenses, losses, claims or actions that may result: (a) if the Report(s) or its recommendations are discovered to be inaccurate, incomplete, misleading or fraudulent; or (b) from the issuance of this letter. Further measures may need to be taken in the event that additional artifacts or archaeological sites are identified or the Report(s) is otherwise found to be inaccurate, incomplete, misleading or fraudulent.