

# **COUNCIL REPORT**

Meeting date:	March 16, 2020
Department:	Community Services
Prepared by:	Robert Lilbourne, Director of Community Services
Reviewed by:	Fred Tranquilli, Chief Administrative Officer
SUBJECT:	Sleepy Hollow Train Station Expansion Report CS 2020-06

**RECOMMENDATION: THAT: Report CS 2020-06 entitled Sleepy Hollow Train Station Expansion be received for information and further;** 

THAT: Council approve the expansion of the Sleepy Hollow Train Station through a generous donation of time and material.

## BACKGROUND

On March 1, 2014, the Municipality responded to a Call for Submissions for applications to participate in a television show called 'Giver', which airs on TVO Kids. 'Giver' is a playground renovation show that provides funding and engages children in the community to assist in revitalizing play spaces that are in need.

Due to the damage caused to the Sleepy Hollow miniature railway as a result of seasonal flooding in Alexandra Park, staff identified the relocation and revitalization of the miniature railway as a project that would provide the compelling episode for television the producers were looking for while addressing a need in our community.

On March 17, 2014, the matter was brought before Strathroy-Caradoc Council to approve the relocation of the miniature railway to the Fair Grounds Recreation Complex to compliment the recent investment in recreational amenities at this site (aquatic facility, arena upgrades, etc.), and contribute to the development of a community destination park.

On the last weekend in May 2014 the three-day build took place and the Television Show Giver was recorded and hundreds of people attended the grand reopening of the Sleepy Hollow Railway.

## COMMENTS

Since this time we have seen the retirement of our long-time volunteer conductor Alvan McCauley, back in 2016. With this retirement the municipality conducted a search to replace him extending invitations out to different service clubs and members of the public. At that time, we were unsuccessful in finding a suitable replacement and managed to operate the train on a severely reduced schedule with paid staff. This approach was not sustainable and we were on the hunt again for new volunteers. In the early Spring of 2019 we were approached by a new group called the Strathroy Model Railroad Engineers a group of model railroad enthusiasts who showed an interest in operating Sleepy Hollow.

This group came with great ambition to improve the overall Sleepy Hollow experience and increase its following.

2019 season projects and programs;

- Grand Season Opening Event
- 4 week Spooky Halloween event during the month of October
- Train Safety Day in conjunction with CN rail
- Attended Victorian Christmas to promote Sleepy Hollow
- Raised over \$8,000.00 in donations to replace the failing track. These donations were matched by PTP to complete the funding needed for the project.

2020 projects

- Researching the purchase of a new wheelchair accessible train car.
- Reinstalling the track with approved track and ties
- Conducting a model train show on September 20, 2020 at WMMC.
- As of today have received \$1,150 in donations.
- If approved by Council, will be working with Jaslo Properties to add a 40' extension on to the existing train station.

The extension of the building will be constructed with the same roof line and façade and will be subject to all building code requirements and have inspections conducted by the Municipal Building Inspectors.

## CONSULTATION

Matt Stephenson – Director of Building, Planning and Waste Management Len Taverner – Supervisor of Property Projects, Horticulture and Cemetery

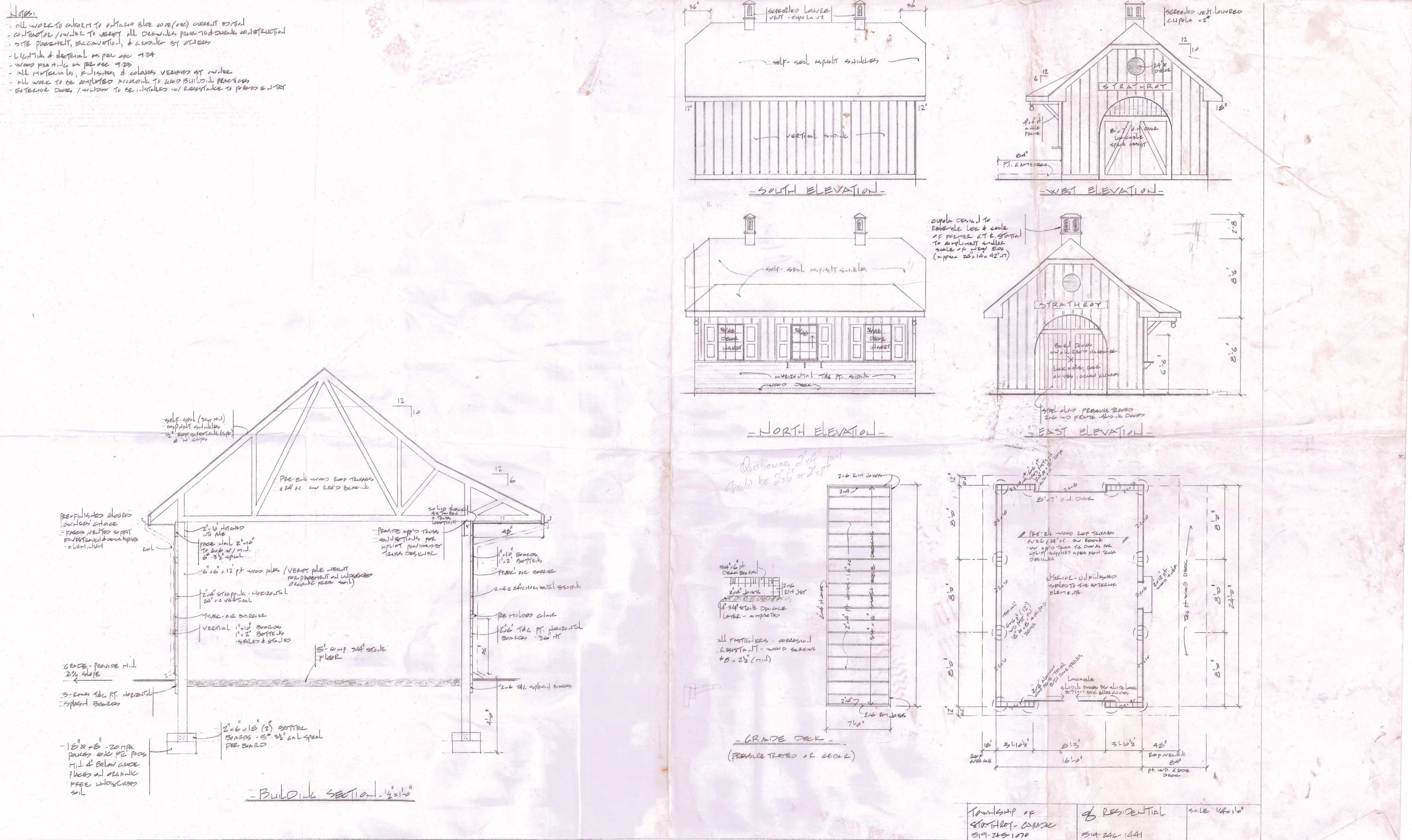
## FINANCIAL

Jaslo Properties are prepared to donate the time and material required to complete this 40' extension of the train station.

## ATTACHMENTS

Drawings of the existing train station Image showing 40' extension of current station





Strathroy-Caradoe Splash Pad

Fairgrounds Aquatic Park

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Strathroy-Garadoc Pool

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