

Highway 104 at Antigonish  
Community Liaison Committee Meeting  
June 29, 2010

**Attendees:**

Trudy Spooner  
Ken Donnelly  
Dwayne Cross  
Roger Garby  
Ian McCallum  
Ken Proctor  
Alicia Grant  
Bill MacFarlane

**Regrets:**

Hugh MacDonald  
Mary McCarron  
Len Robertson  
Anne-Marie MacKenzie  
Gerry Grant  
Debbie Kampen  
Brian Segal  
Heather Mayhew

**1. Introductions**

Ken Donnelly provided a brief introduction to the meeting and indicated that the main purpose of the meeting was to discuss updates on the West River Bridge, the public information session, and the updated website and use of social media.

**2. West River Bridge Update**

*A. Letter from Nova Scotia Environment (NSE)*

- NSE agreed with NSTIR that the changes are not so significant that a new Environmental Assessment (EA) should be conducted by the Province.
- There will be a Federal screening because of the disturbance of fish habitat (HADD).

*B. Public Information Session*

- The CLC had requested there be a public forum to discuss the changes to the bridge design and NSTIR agreed. NSE suggested that any public meeting be held in downtown Antigonish so that it's easily accessible to town residents. NSE also suggests that it should be very well advertized.
- Members of the CLC suggested potential locations: schools, town hall, St. Francis Xavier University. This will be determined as the planning for the public meeting progresses.
- The CLC discussed holding the public meeting in July or in September. Going early in July would mean that no information would be presented about the HADD or the Federal EA because they will not have been completed. Hosting the meeting in September would allow for that information to be present, but the CLC does not want to give the impression that it is withholding information.
- It was agreed that hosting the meeting in early September would be preferable because more residents will be available (i.e. not on summer vacation). In the meantime, updated information regarding the highway will be available on the website.
- It is important for residents to know that the purpose of the meeting is not to provide input for the redesign of the bridge, but rather to present the changes that have been made to the bridge. Residents will be encouraged to give any feedback they may have on construction timing, activities, etc.
- The meeting can also discuss more than just the West River Bridge. All available highway plans and information can be available at the meeting.
- FOLLOW UP:
  - CLC to discuss the information that will be presented at the public meeting.
  - Plan to host meeting at the beginning of the school year, in early September.

*C. Profile of the Highway and Cross Section Graphic (Dwayne Cross)*

- There was concern that the Hailey's would see and/or hear the highway once it is constructed.
- The highway cross section shows that the road will be at 18m of elevation and that the hill the Hailey's live on is at 26m of elevation, so there is 8m of space the will separate the house from the highway.
- There is not enough material for the fill, so some material will have to be borrowed from other sections of construction, though this was always the case.

*D. Paul Corsten Update*

- Dwayne has met with Paul Corsten and an agreement has been made.
- There will be 4m of cut through his farm land. NSTIR is keeping the road as close to the end of his field as possible. Now he can reclaim the land that was formerly being used as a road.

- The tunnel will be put in place for his use. It's big enough for two 18-wheelers to pass each other.
- It will cost approximately \$1.3-1.5 million.
- Paul Corsten is happy with the arrangement.

*E. Rare Plant Tissue Collection*

- This will be discussed again at the next meeting because Heather Mayhew was unable to attend and would very much like to be a part of this discussion.
- Currently, NSTIR is meeting with Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to discuss the rare plants around the West River Bridge.
- Stantec proposed cloning the plants at Acadia University to not only save the displaced plants, but potentially even increase their populations.
- NSTIR does not want to miss an opportunity this spring, so they are collecting plant material and sending it to Acadia.
- The plants will be moved to reclaimed agricultural land to enhance the native plant populations.
- There are currently three yellow listed plants in the area, with limited niches they can survive in.

### **3. Website and Social Media**

The website has been updated and was launched on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010. It has the same content but has been redesigned, making it easier to update. It has a section that similar to a blog, allowing Ken and Trudy to add information quicker and easier. We've also integrated Twitter into the site. Our Twitter account is Antigonish104. We will be using it to get out messages and updates quickly. Ken is also going to contact The Casket to get a story out about the updated use of social media. We are also considering developing a Facebook group, for those who do not use Twitter.

### **4. Other Business**

*A. Trunk 7*

- More details about Trunk 7 will be available soon.
- There will be accommodation for sidewalks.
- Current infrastructure in the area will not be affected. There is still a lot to sort out but for the short term everything will stay the same.
- On the west side, the farm market will stay the same.
- This summer NSTIR will complete a Right-of-Way plan.
- There will be no construction on Trunk 7 until the end of winter.

*B. West Street*

- The current design is for two roundabouts. Once the finalizing is done, all the details will be worked out with the existing highway.
- There is a desire on the part of the NSTIR to keep the traffic lights, but that could change in the future.
- The tender for construction through Trunk 7 will go out in January

**5. Next Meeting**

To be determined.