

HIGHWAY 104 AT ANTIGONISH COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE

MEETING NOTES - MEETING #2
MARCH 19, 2008

Attendees: John Bain
Dwayne Cross
Philana Dollin
Ken Donnelly
Alisha Grant
Rose Julian
Hugh MacDougall
Bill MacFarlane
Anne-Marie MacKenzie
Kuli Malhotra
Mary McCarron
Ken Proctor
Elizabeth Pugh
Len Robertson
Brian Segal
Wes Surrett

Regrets: Frank Gallant, Roger Garby

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND REVIEW

Ken Donnelly welcomed the Community Liaison Committee back for a second meeting and introductions were made around the table, as two new people had joined. The Committee briefly went over the agenda and the meeting notes from last month. Everyone approved.

Action items from last week were reviewed:

1. Dwayne: His presentation from the last meeting was sent out by email.
2. Dwayne: The draft report of the Traffic Study is delayed and going back for another round of edits. It will be finalized in approximately one month.
3. John: The insurance item will be carried forward to the next meeting. The TIR representatives will inquire with their lawyers.

REVIEW OF THE DRAFT CLC CHARTER

Committee members reviewed the draft charter and revisions which had been made since the last meeting.

A small discussion on liability arose. Some members wanted clarification on whether the liability statement in the Charter was sufficient to cover the issues

raised in the discussion from the previous meeting. It does not, and [Dwayne will ask TIR lawyers what is required.](#)

Ken reminded the committee that this is the founding document of the CLC and defines the scope and terms of reference for the future of the committee.

[The committee considered and approved the draft.](#)

Everyone approved it as the final version. [Ken will finalize the document and send out the final version.](#)

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

A communication strategy should be developed with the purpose of describing the 2-way communication role of the committee.

How to get information TO the community?

There was some brainstorming and discussion about media for information dispersal. The following is a list of potential newsletters, websites, etc which may be useful:

- Newsletters:
 - NSFA Newsletter
 - Tourist association electronic mail-out (every 2-3 months)
 - Town newsletters (quarterly distribution)
 - Quad County (weekly publication by the Casket)
 - St FX Xavier paper and News@X electronic newsletter
 - The Casket
- Mailing Lists:
 - RDA mailing list
 - Environmental listserve
 - St. FX listserves
- First Nation Community media:
 - Community newsletter and website
 - Mi'kmaq and Malicite News
 - FirstNET
- Websites:
 - Town
 - County
 - Chamber
 - RDA
 - Partnership
 - NFA
 - Antigonish and Eastern Shore Tourist Association (AESTA)
 - CLC website can host announcements and information (PDFs)

A discussion followed on communication to media and how to ensure a consistent message from the committee. It was decided that Ken would speak as the official representative for the committee, but would circulate messages with special consideration (controversial) to the committee before disseminating them. However, every member of the committee is free to speak as an individual on issues specific to their sector. As well, for an issue pertaining to a specific sector, Ken will collaborate with the appropriate committee member(s) to craft the message.

How to get information FROM the community?

There was also discussion about possible open houses in the future to allow community members an opportunity to talk with committee members face to face. These may take place only after construction has begun. This discussion led into a larger discussion on the overall process for construction and other aspects of the Highway 104 project at Antigonish.

Members questioned TIR representatives on the timing, approval process, funding situation and permitting for the Highway Project. Members were informed that, according to plan, construction will be called for this summer. This is dependant on federal funding and signing of the agreement. [Dwayne agreed to post a broad-level schedule on the CLC website](#) (this would include a disclaimer to qualify the schedule as the “most recent version” and able to change).

OTHER BUSINESS

A broad range of issues were brought up during this meeting and included the following topics:

1. Compensation

Elizabeth answered questions regarding the EA process at the Provincial and Federal levels, including protocol for habitat compensation. If habitat is removed from one location (e.g. to build a highway), then the same habitat type must be recreated/preserved in another location 3 times the size of the original. [This information will be included in the FAQ section of the CLC website.](#)

2. Press Release for CLC

A press release will be developed by Ken and released to the public in two weeks. It will include a summary of the mandate of the CLC and reference to the website. The website will be up and running by that time. [Ken will circulate a draft of the release prior to submitting it to the media.](#)

3. Dispute Resolution

Elizabeth is trying to find out what is already in place at TIR and trying to contact Department of Environment. [Elizabeth will have information on dispute resolution for the committee at the next meeting.](#)

4. Contact information for CLC members

Contact information for some committee members still has not been confirmed. [If you would like changes to Ken's current list of information, please contact him.](#)

5. Meeting agenda development

It was decided that the agenda for subsequent meetings will be developed at the end of each meeting. Discussion regarding next month's meeting came to the conclusion that the following issues should be addressed: gateway concept, viewplanes (design geometry), exits, landscape design and bridges. [Dwayne will collect and bring as much information as he can on these issues to the next meeting.](#)

6. Highway construction costing

Some committee members are interested in gaining a general knowledge of costs of various road construction pieces, as well as cost differential for the project. [Dwayne will collect and bring as much information as he can on this issue to the next meeting.](#)

7. Domain name for the CLC website

The committee agreed that the domain name for the CLC website should be [www.104Antigonish](#) (or something as close as possible, depending on availability).

8. Information to go on CLC Website

[Items to be included on the CLC website will be developed and circulated by Ken.](#) These will include the following pieces: Charter, EA & Background, FAQs, Schedule and secure resources.

MEETING #3 ADVANCE DISCUSSION

CLC members decided it necessary to have a pre-meeting discussion for next month's meeting to determine some of the key issues to be addressed.

Questions were raised around the following issues:

- what is possible (financially and physically)?
- how feasible is it to create viewplanes?
- can we mitigate negatives/promote opportunities?
- what are cost factors?
- what are alternatives?

The committee expressed some interest in have minor discussions about signage during the next meeting. Although it was agreed that the signage discussion would occur at the meeting after next month and experts would be brought in for that meeting to help answer committee questions. For the next meeting, committee members are to brainstorm esthetics and images that conjure “Antigonish”.

The timing of the next meeting was left unconfirmed as there were several time conflicts within the committee. [Ken will send around a list of possible dates and wait to confirm the date of the next meeting.](#)

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.