

Highway 104 at Antigonish Community Liaison Committee

Briefing Report July 31, 2013

Construction Progress

Work on the South River bridges is progressing and they should be completed by the spring of 2015.

The grading work on the Trunk 4 realignment near Dunn's Loop is progressing.

The highway underpass structure on the Trunk 4 realignment has begun construction and should be completed by the end of 2013.

The Taylor Road highway underpass structure and short piece of highway grading is substantially complete and will be finished by the end of 2013.

The major tender call for the grading of the new highway, and paving of the Trunk 4 realignment is expected to be out to tender any day, with a completion date of the spring/summer of 2014.

Dwayne Cross will provide an update on the Trunk 4 realignment at Dunn's Loop at the meeting.

Antigonish Landing

Ducks Unlimited Canada has been commissioned to start wetland creation and enhancement work and a new interpretive trail at the 'South Parcel' of the Antigonish Wetland Compensation Site (off St. Andrews Street; on the peninsula between the Rights and West Rivers). Earthwork will begin in August, once the birds have finished nesting. DUC will be excavating a 1 ha pond and creating a new trail this year. Next summer, a 4 ha pond will be developed adjacent to the smaller pond.

The three new culverts within Landing Trail are expected to be installed later this Summer-Fall. Additional ponds and drainage channels will then be constructed to enhance tidal flushing of the 9 ha salt marsh system.

Research on invasive alien plants, and specifically Japanese knotweed, by a researcher (Todd Larsen) from Dalhousie University (Faculty of Agriculture in Truro) is continuing throughout the compensation site this Summer. Previous work has led to the successful defense of a Master of Science thesis (Congrats to Todd Larsen).

Councillor MacFarlane has requested that the CLC write a letter to the Minister to ask him to put a priority on the work to be done on the trail. The work was supposed to be done last year, but it seems that there is insufficient resources and priority to have it established in a timely manner. A letter to the Minister could result in the work being done this year.

Old Signage

Brian Storrie was unavailable to give an update for this briefing, but it is believed that the old signage has been addressed. However, Anne-Marie MacKenzie has been monitoring this issue, and may know of some signage that still has not been resolved.

We will get a report from Brian when he comes back from vacation and forward it.

CLC Membership

There have been some changes in membership. Hugh McDougall has stepped down, and we thank him for all of his work. At Hugh's suggestion, we are looking for a replacement in the area of the Phase 2 work. Councillor McCarron has kindly agreed to look for someone.

With the RDA shuttering its doors we no longer have representation from that organization.

We have spoken with many of the members to reconfirm their involvement, and they have all agreed to stay on for this second phase.

We should look for someone to join the committee that represents the community in a way that the RDA did, if that is possible.

Reporting and Website

In order to facilitate better reporting to the Committee members and to the Community, we will be providing briefs similar to this one before every meeting. It will help members to see what the progress is without having to rely on notes, and will be especially useful when members cannot attend meetings. In the future we will circulate them 3 days before the meeting so members who cannot attend may send their thoughts via email and they will be read and considered at the meeting.

Members are free to distribute to others in the community. As well, the briefs will be posted on the website the night before the meeting.