

# Highway 104 at Antigonish

## Community Liaison Committee

### Meeting Minutes

July 31, 2013

**Attendance:** Dwayne Cross, Rose Julian, Ken Proctor, Cindy MacKinnon, Owen McCarron, Bob Pett, Angus Gillis, John Bain, Glenn Horne, Ken Donnelly, Ashley Burke

- Cindy had to leave early

### Antigonish Landing Update

Bob Pett gave an update on Antigonish Landing.

Ducks Unlimited (DU) will develop ponds and create a larger wetlands site, in two parts, North and South. They are expected to begin after summer vacation season. There was a delay due to the discovery of an active sewage line. DU has a concern that the pond could be dug too deep, which may cause it to lose the ability to hold water. Bob does not think this is a problem, but Ducks Unlimited is concerned about the possibility.

Todd Larsen, the agriculture student who has been working on the Japanese Knotweed issue, is continuing his research, even though he has graduated. However, the weed scientist who was overseeing the research has moved to another job, and the project may have to be delayed until there is oversight available.

The timing of the construction of the bridge and small culverts was discussed and Bob felt that they should be placed later in the summer and fall; however it has to be approved by the district office.

Ken Donnelly asked if the abandoned pipe that had been found is still a problem. Ken Proctor said that the Town thought it was part of a sewage treatment plant from the 1970's. Part of the line collapsed, so an overflow manhole will be constructed and monitored. There is no impact foreseen on the work that Ducks Unlimited was doing.

Ken Donnelly stated that Councillor MacFarlane suggested that the CLC write a letter to the minister to ask for priority on work to be done on the trail. NSTIR staff said that they would try to expedite internally.

## **Construction Progress**

Dwayne Cross gave an update on alignment issues, Phase 1 ending at Beech Hill Road, budget and schedule. The work will continue onward to Taylor Rd, but the Dunn's Loop bridge alignment is being sorted out. Changing the design will reduce the length of the structure and result in significant savings. The estimated completion of the project is 2016. Dwayne reviewed the schedule with the committee, and it has been posted on the website with a disclaimer that it is subject to change.

Owen McCarron said he was hearing that some residents felt there was inadequate information coming from the Province about the status of compensation for land. Dwayne Cross asked for their names and will be looking into the issue further. Owen McCarron also suggested that the CLC communicate better with the community so they feel more involved and understand the mandate and operation of the CLC.

## **Signage**

Ken Donnelly stated that he noticed more signage for the divided highway on the east end of Phase 1, as well as a blinking light. Dwayne Cross informed the CLC that a rumble strip has been put down to help make drivers aware of the transition from two lanes to four. As well, Dwayne indicated that the highway is designed to slow down traffic by turning to the left and right.

Dwayne said that the old signage is cleaned up, to the best of his knowledge, and asked that people let him know of any issues that they may notice.

Ken Proctor discussed the installation of the municipal signs. The estimated cost is \$75,000 and they are finding that some property owners do not want signs on their property.

A concern about the timing of the lights at Trunk 7 was raised, with several people saying that they believed that the old TCH was still getting priority. Dwayne Cross said he will look into the issue, and there was some discussion about conducting traffic counts. Dwayne also discussed the benefits of having counters on the highway, including the help of understanding the existing traffic trends. He indicated that traffic and pedestrian counts would likely be done.

## **CLC Membership**

Ken Donnelly said that he had contacted members of the CLC to ask if they wanted to remain on the Committee. While almost all agreed to stay on, Hugh MacDougall resigned. Hugh felt it would be better to have a member-at-large who represents Phase 2 on the CLC than someone from Phase 1. Owen McCarron is in the process of finding a replacement for Hugh.

Terms of Reference were discussed and all agreed that continuing the membership as is would be most beneficial and no changeover of membership was necessary. It was suggested that it might be beneficial to have someone fill the void created by the dissolution of the RDA.

## **Reporting and Website**

The website is being redesigned for Phase 2 and briefing reports will be created to help members prepare for meetings, and to keep those who may be absent from a meeting informed. It was agreed that briefing reports would be distributed one week beforehand to allow those who are unable to attend to address any issues they have before the meeting.

The minutes are being placed on the website, and will be accessible from a sidebar on the front page.

Ken Donnelly also suggested the use of Basecamp project software to allow for improved communications within the CMC between meetings. This could allow people to raise and discuss any issues between meetings. It could be used to distribute minutes as well. It will be investigated to assess feasibility.

## **Other Items**

John asked if the number of road kills were being recorded. Owen said that Natural Resources keeps figures only on large animal kills, for seasonal and biological assessment. The road kill on the highway is the responsibility of NSTIR. Rose Julian asked about the frequency of deer accidents and Ken Proctor inquired about the reason animals would be attracted to the new highway. Many reasons were discussed, including building in their travel corridor, vegetation and the pattern of animals.

Rose Julian inquired in the use of Social Media in the Highway discussion and the CLC discussions. A Facebook group will be created and promoted through other local Facebook groups as well as local community groups.

**MEETING ADJOURNED.**