

VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 7, 2007
7:00 p.m.

The regular monthly meeting of the Village of New Minas Transportation Advisory Committee was held on February 7, 2007, 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Civic Centre.

In Attendance: Chair Dean Hatt
Village Commission Chair Dave Chaulk
Village Commission Vice-Chair Dale Pineo
Citizen Member Gordon Silver
Village Engineer Doug Seamone
Superintendent of Public Works Peter Pothier
Clerk Treasurer Terry Silver

Also in Attendance: Mr. Adam Landry, Resident
Mr. David Etter, Resident

Regrets: Citizen Member Pat Saulnier

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Dean Hatt

Chair Hatt called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – February 7, 2007

On motion of D. Pineo, seconded by G. Silver, the Agenda for the regular meeting of TAC of February 7, 2007 was approved with the following addition: Under *New Business* add (b) *New Minas South Connector Road*. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Monthly Meeting, January 18/07

It was moved by G. Silver, seconded by D. Chaulk, that the minutes of the regular TAC meeting held January 18, 2007 be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- (a) Transportation Study Acceptance (Recommendation to Commission)

The Committee discussed the Transportation Study and the recommendation to the Village Commission.

It was moved by G. Silver, seconded by D. Pineo, that the Transportation Study be forwarded to the Village Commission for consideration. MOTION CARRIED

D. Seamone will ask Mr. Golding to attend the next Village Commission meeting, if possible, and the Hon. David Morse will also be requested to attend.

(b) Sidewalks – Repairs – Survey Update P. Pothier

At the regular TAC meeting held in January, 2007, P. Pothier and D. Seamone agreed to review all the sidewalks currently in place and make recommendations to this Committee, including costs to repair.

D. Seamone advised that it has been difficult to view the sidewalks due to snow cover, but stated that Commercial Street, with aging asphalt sidewalks, is in need of repair. Also, Prospect Road is in much the same condition. Doug stated that when repairs are carried out, the sidewalks should be widened to 5' because much of the damage that occurs on the outside edges of the sidewalks is caused by the snowplow's larger blade. Doug has estimated the resurfacing of the asphalt to be approximately \$8/foot, with the strip along Commercial from Cornwallis Avenue to the Golf Course being 4,500 feet, and to the boundary an additional 2,000 feet. Asphalt sidewalk from Commercial Street along Prospect Road to the Big Stop would be approximately 5,000 feet.

The discussion then continued to construction of new sidewalks. D. Seamone stated that it is his opinion that the first areas to be considered for new sidewalks are Cornwallis Avenue to Lockhart Drive and along Lockhart Drive to Jones Road. He estimated this would be approximately 4,500 feet in total, and would cost approximately \$100/foot for concrete sidewalk and curb/gutter.

It was moved by D. Chaulk, seconded by D. Pineo, that it be recommended to the Village Commission that subject to budget restraints, the Commission budget for repairs to asphalt sidewalks on Commercial Street at Cornwallis Avenue to Ken Wo Golf Club, and for new sidewalk construction for Cornwallis Avenue and Lockhart Drive. MOTION CARRIED

(c) Drainage Ditch/Storm Drains, Jordan Subdivision Prospect Road – Update

T. Silver advised that, as recommended by this Committee, she had written to the Department of Transportation and the Municipality of the County of Kings advising them of this Committee's concerns, and the concerns expressed by the Area Advisory Committee in November, 2006, of the drainage ditch from Milne Avenue having been filled in and relocated by the Jordan Development on Prospect Road, and requesting information as to who would have responsibility to maintain the new storm sewers. She referred to a letter from Mr. Scott Quinn, Project Engineer from the County of Kings (copy attached to original minutes). Mr. Quinn stated that the easement allows the Municipality to maintain the drainage way from Milne Avenue to the ditches along Prospect Road (which are the responsibility of the provincial Department of Transportation). The County is dealing with Mr. Jordan at this time.

G. Silver suggested that this Committee be kept updated on this issue.

NEW BUSINESS

(a) Sidewalks – new construction – Gordon Silver

This item was discussed along with item Business Arising from the Minutes (b). G. Silver added that this Committee should bring this item forward early in the fall so a complete list can be considered and the recommendations made to the Village in advance of budget discussions.

(b) New Minas South Collector Road – Chair Hatt

Chair Hatt stated he had attended a public meeting at the County of Kings on February 1st with regard to an application for the New Minas South Collector Road. He said it was a very informative meeting, and read a report he had written on the meeting. His report outlined the following:

- Collector Road will begin at the Highbury School House Road and continue east to the Forsythe Road in Greenwich
- The collector road will run parallel to Highway 101
- An exit/entry road is planned from the 101 Highway to the new collector road onto Granite Drive onto Commercial Street in New Minas

G. Silver suggested the Village Commission might want to consider constructing a sidewalk from Maple Avenue along the Village's Sewer Easement along the Vogue Optical property to Valley View Drive. P. Pothier stated that the Vogue Optical property is currently considering a development on their lands.

It was moved by G. Silver, seconded by D. Chaulk, that it be recommended to the Village Commission to approach the property owner for an easement for a sidewalk from Maple Drive through the Vogue Optical property through to Valley View Drive. MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

Chair Hatt brought the following letters to the attention of the Committee:

- (d) Letter from B. Ward, DOTPW re Concerns Aalders Avenue, Jan 19/07
- (e) Copy of Letter from B. Ward, To Hon. David Morse, MLA re Aalders Avenue Jan 19/07
- (f) Copy of Letter to Warden Fred Whalen from B. Ward re Aalders Avenue, Jan 19/07
- (g) Copy of Letter to David Etter from B. Ward re Aalders Avenue Jan 19/07

Chair Hatt stated that these letters are for information purposes, and all deal with the concerns of citizens on Aalders Avenue. He stated that the Village Commission and the Transportation Advisory Committee have been trying to assist the residents resolve their concerns for several years, but it all comes down to the decision of the Department of Transportation, who owns the street. Chair Hatt stated he understands the frustrations of those involved. He said he had personally spoken to a business owner on Jones Road, whose drivers were reportedly testing vehicles on Aalders Avenue North. Chair Hatt asked if they could refrain from doing so. The business owner said he was not aware of any testing in that area, but he would assure his staff were instructed to not test on these streets. He stated he could not ask his customers to not use a public street.

Discussion took place on Mr. Ward's letters.

G. Silver stated that it disturbs him that residential street are being used for other types of traffic, but he understands that DOTPW, by doing traffic counts and surveys, have no justification to make any changes.

D. Pineo stated that the Village has exhausted all options as far as any assistance it can provide.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

Mr. David Etter

Chair Hatt introduced Mr. David Etter and Mr. Adam Landry. Mr. Etter stated he appreciates all the efforts the Village has put into their requests, and disagrees with the findings as stated in the letter from DOTPW. He stated that everyone seems to have missed the point of the Petition. He said that petition was meant to establish the fact that the Village's Bylaws were being violated, and furthermore that the residents in his subdivision (and it IS a subdivision) are being tormented with traffic 24/7 for 365 days a year. He said it is not going to stop and all he wanted was some respect, but he didn't get it.

P. Pothier took exception to Mr. Etter's suggestion that he didn't get any respect. He stated that the Village Commission and the Transportation Advisory Committee have been dealing with the residents' concerns for three years at least; the Department of Transportation and the Village have done many traffic counts and the Village has conducted a Traffic Study which has definitely taken the concerns of the residents of Aalders Avenue into account. There has been a lot of time and money spent to assist him and the other residents to come to a resolution.

David Etter asked to have his comment qualified: there has been no respect from DOT.

P. Pothier went on to say that there was a public meeting called by the Village Commission to request the public's permission to borrow money to construct sidewalks, and Aalders Avenue was at the top of the list, but there were very few people from Aalders Avenue at that public meeting; in fact, Mr. Etter was not there. Mr. Etter thanked P. Pothier for his comments, but stated they did not ask for sidewalks.

G. Silver stated he has spoken with the County Planner with regard to the Bylaw violation. He was told that although Aalders Avenue was originally considered a "subdivision street", it has since been turned over to DOTPW and it is now a public street. The County has no authority to enforce anything on DOTPW-owned property.

Mr. Etter thanked the Committee. He went on to say that this issue will not die.

Mr. Adam Landry

Mr. Landry stated that they have taken the approach of enlisting the help from the Local MLA, and until they hear back from him, they will let it lie.

Chair Hatt asked Mr. Etter what the reception was from the County of Kings when they were approached. Mr. Etter stated, "nothing short of excellent". He went on to state that he has the feeling that people are more interested in box stores than the safety of their community.

G. Silver stated he was somewhat surprised that DOTPW did not consider the "no right turn" concept. P. Pothier said that there have been two traffic counts, and a traffic study among other things.

G. Silver feels that if the recommendations from the Village's Traffic Study are adopted by DOTPW, improving traffic flow on Commercial Street will improve the traffic on the side streets. Furthermore, in the future, the South Connector Road should make a difference as well.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of D. Chaulk, the meeting adjourned.

D. Hatt, Chair

T. Silver, Clerk Treasurer