

**VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS**  
**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**January 12, 2006**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Conference Room, Village Office**

**CALL TO ORDER – Chair Les Barrett**

A meeting of the New Minas Transportation Advisory Committee was held on January 12, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Village Office.

**In Attendance:** Chair Les Barrett  
Vice Chair Pat Saulnier  
Village Commission Chair Dave Chaulk  
Village Commission Vice Chair Linda Lockhart  
Citizen Member Gordon Silver  
Superintendent of Public Works Peter Pothier  
Village's Engineer Doug Seamone  
Clerk Treasurer Terry Silver

**Also in Attendance:** Ms. Sharon Boyd, Resident  
Mr. Dave Etter, Resident

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA – January 12, 2006**

It was moved by L. Lockhart, seconded by G. Silver, that the TAC Agenda for January 12, 2006 be approved as presented. **MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES –**

(a) **Regular Monthly Meeting, November 8, 2005**

It was moved by L. Lockhart, seconded by D. Chaulk, that the minutes of the November 8, 2005 Regular TAC meeting be approved as circulated. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**(b) Meeting with TAC and DOTPW, December 13, 2005**

**It was moved that the minutes of the TAC Meeting with the Department of Transportation on December 13, 2005 be approved with the following amendments:**

- *Page 2, para 2, line 2, insert the word “not” after the word “will”.*
- *Page 2, para 5, add a final sentence to read: “Mr. Larkin noted that the Village will be required to maintain the sidewalk”*
- *Page 3, para 1, line 2 change the word “are” to “were”*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**(a) Plowing Crosswalks at Connector Road Intersection – Update, P. Pothier**

P. Pothier stated that the Village is responsible to plough the sidewalks up to the Big Stop, but DOT has constructed a small sidewalk in the median at the Connector Road intersection. He expressed concern that DOT is not removing snow from this sidewalk. D. Seamone stated he doesn't feel it should be the Village's responsibility to plough this sidewalk. Chair Barrett stated that it was his understanding that it would only become the Village's responsibility when it is connected to the Village's sidewalk. Discussion took place on liability and DOT's lack of communication to the Village in this regard.

**It was moved by D. Chaulk, seconded by L. Lockhart, that it be recommended to the Village Commission, that the portion of the sidewalk at the “Connector Road Intersection” be cleared of snow by the Village, and that Village staff provide snow clearing at this location in the interim, if necessary, for safety reasons.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**(b) Aalders Avenue Safety Concerns – Transportation Study Recommendation**

Discussion ensued with regard to the safety concerns on Aalders Avenue. The Chair gave Mr. Etter permission to speak. He spoke of specific traffic-related instances which he has witnessed, and urged the Committee to do something, or to encourage the proper authorities to do something.

Mr. Etter was advised that at the meeting with DOT, it was made quite plain to the members that DOT will not restrict access to public roads. He was advised that DOT has offered to work with the Village to develop a Traffic Study and that is currently being discussed. Mr. Etter thanked the members for their assistance, and suggested he had alternatives, but was hesitant to use them. Chair Barrett stated that this

Committee is continuing the effort to come to a solution for the traffic issues in the Village.

(c) Cloverleaf Drive Drainage problems – Update from R. Larkin

D. Seamone stated that Mr. Larkin has not followed up on this, and T. Silver will call him again soon to discuss Cloverleaf Drive drainage problems. P. Pothier suggested we advise DOT that this item should be included in their budget for 06/07.

(d) Snow Removal Process – Update P. Pother

P. Pothier stated that because we have been lucky enough to not have much snow, things have been quiet in this regard.

D. Chaulk stated he is more concerned about the sidewalk snow clearing, and feels a better job could be done. P. Pothier asked D. Chaulk to contact him with his concerns when the problem arises, so that he can deal with the specific problem as it occurs.

(e) Sidewalk Repairs at Bank of Nova Scotia – Update P. Pothier

P. Pothier stated that he still has heard nothing from DOT with regard to the mess which was left by a contractor on our sidewalk, and is concerned that DOT issued a permit to cut through our sidewalk without our knowledge and permission. He stated that for liability reasons, the Village staff should probably repair the sidewalk. G. Silver stated that whether the Village is responsible or not, they are aware of a safety issue and should ensure that the repair is carried out.

**It was moved by P. Saulnier, seconded by L. Lockhart, that a letter be forwarded to DOT putting them on notice that the Village will be repairing damage caused to the section of sidewalk beside the Bank of Nova Scotia under a Permit issued by them, and costs for this repair will be charged to the Department of Transportation and Public Works. MOTION CARRIED**

(f) Notification of Lights not Working – Canadian Tire Intersection – Update P. Pothier

A note from Village Commissioner Dale Pineo was read by the Chair and explained to the Committee. Commissioner Pineo stated that crosswalk lights at the “Canadian Tire” intersection are not working properly and often stick in the cold weather. He requested that DOT be advised of this problem and they be requested to repair the lights because of safety concerns.

P. Pothier stated that there are several concerns with mal-functioning traffic lights in New Minas as well, and these concerns have been forwarded numerous times to DOT. P. Pothier stated that it is difficult to get the traffic lights repaired in New Minas. G. Silver stated that it is his feeling that a lot of these problems are due to

government cuts. He said the workers' hands are tied as to how and when they react to requests.

D. Chaulk asked if there is any indication as to when DOT will address the issue of changing the traffic lights to flashing mode in off-hours. P. Pothier stated the sensors are already in place in some locations, and it was his opinion that that is all that would be done. P. Pothier offered to monitor the wait time to ascertain if the sensors are working.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### (a) ATV Activity in Village

Chair Barrett stated that concerns have been expressed to the Commission and this Committee with regard to ATV activity in the Village. He gave permission for Mrs. Sharon Boyd to speak to the Committee.

Mrs. Boyd played an audio tape which she recorded at her home last summer. This tape depicted sounds in the background of vehicles which she stated were ATVs on property in the vicinity of her property. She said she has to put up with noise for up to 5 hours a day.

Considerable discussion took place with Mrs. Boyd and her concerns. She stated that she had gone to the Village office, the Commission, the RCMP, property owners, and the County of Kings to try to have the disruption of the quiet enjoyment of her property terminated. She said no one has offered to do anything for her. She complained that the Noise Bylaws for the Village and the County cannot be enforced and no one has assisted her in any way.

T. Silver took exception to Mrs. Boyd's comments that the Commission and its staff have not assisted her. She stated that the Commission has directed her on several occasions to pursue Mrs. Boyd's complaints by contacting the County and RCMP, which she did on many occasions. She stated that letters were written to landowners, and she had interviews and phone conversations with these landowners, who have taken considerable steps to ensure that unwanted ATV traffic is removed from their properties. The RCMP have monitored the area, and Mr. Millett who owns the gravel pit, has set up an ATV Club to ensure that those persons using his property abide by certain rules by way of agreements. T. Silver stated that many people have most certainly assisted her to the best of their authority. Mrs. Boyd complained that she had requested copies of the letters to the landowners, but did not receive them. T. Silver stated they are at the Village office for her to pick up.

Mr. Etter stated that there were some problems with who owns what land in the subject area. He stated there is provision in the Protection of Property Act to deal with this problem.

The Commission recommended to Mrs. Boyd that she carry out a survey of her neighbours so she would have a stronger voice in her quest to prohibit the use of this area for ATV recreation. She said that is her next step, and she was urged to follow through with this.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **(a) Highland Avenue Sidewalk Repairs**

P. Pothier stated that DOT issued another permit to cut into the Village's sidewalk at the Highland Avenue development without the Village's permission. The repairs have not been done to our sidewalk, and he is in conversation with DOT regarding this matter. He will also stress to them the importance of their seeking permission from the Village when they issue permits to cut into our sidewalks.

### **PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD**

Sharon Boyd – Asked if the Village could provide a priority list of snow removal procedures. She was advised that DOT is responsible for all street maintenance, including snow removal. T. Silver provided Mrs. Boyd with DOT's website address, which this Committee was advised outlines details of snow removal priority lists.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**On motion of L. Lockhart, the meeting adjourned.**

---

**L. Barrett, Chair**

---

**T. Silver, Clerk Treasurer**