

VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
March 14, 2006
7:00 p.m.

The regular monthly meeting of the Village of New Minas Transportation Advisory Committee was held on March 14, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Civic Centre.

In Attendance: Vice-Chair Pat Saulnier, Charing Meeting
Commission Chair, Dave Chaulk
Commission Vice-Chair, Linda Lockhart
Committee Member Gordon Silver
Superintendent of Public Works, Peter Pothier
Clerk Treasurer, Terry Silver

Regrets: Chair, Les Barrett

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Pat Saulnier

P. Saulnier called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – March 14, 2006

It was moved by L. Lockhart, seconded by G. Silver, that the Agenda for March 14, 2006 be approved, with the following additions under NEW BUSINESS:

- (a) 3 Way Stop, Redden Avenue
- (b) Request DOT to accommodate Pedestrian Traffic south side of Commercial Street

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Monthly Meeting, February 14, 2006

It was moved by L. Lockhart, seconded by G. Silver, that the minutes of February 14, 2006 meeting be approved with the following change: Page 4, first paragraph, first line, replace “Privacy” with “Property”. **MOTION CARRIED**

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Plowing Sidewalks at Connector Road Intersection – Letter from B. Ward

The Committee viewed a letter from Mr. Brian Ward, Department of Transportation and Public Works, regarding the plowing of the sidewalks installed at the Connector Road/Prospect Road intersection by DOTPW, without consultation with the Commission. Discussion ensued on the contents of Mr. Ward's letter.

P. Pothier stated that he has been advised that DOTPW does not intend to alter the intersection – it works well. He stated he is concerned about the Village's liability if we continue to maintain the sidewalk when it is not the Village's responsibility. G. Silver expressed disappointment with the attitude of DOTPW. He said that it was stated by Mr. Larkin and Mr. Ward at a meeting held in December, 2005, that the intersection was installed at the request of the Village of New Minas, and this is simply not true, although everyone has welcomed the intersection. G. Silver fears that if the Village Commission agrees to maintain the sidewalk, it sends the message that the Village actually requested it. D. Chaulk stated that he feels the only maintenance that should be carried out is snow removal and salting/sanding for the safety of pedestrians, since DOTPW have refused to do this.

It was moved by L. Lockhart, seconded by D. Chaulk, that it be recommended to the Village Commission for the Clerk to write a letter to Mr. Brian Ward of DOTPW advising that the Village will continue to plow, salt and sand the sidewalk at the intersection of the Connector Road and Prospect Road, but will not be responsible for any repairs or other maintenance. MOTION CARRIED

(b) Aalders Avenue Traffic Concerns – Letter from B. Ward

A letter from Mr. B. Ward regarding traffic issues was perused and discussed by the Committee.

It was moved by L. Lockhart, seconded by G. Silver, that it be recommended to the Village Commission that the Clerk write a letter to the RCMP, with a copy of Mr. Ward's letter, to request that they enforce the speed zones in the area of Aalders Avenue, Lockhart Drive and Cornwallis Avenue. MOTION CARRIED

(c) Transportation Study – Letter from B. Ward

A letter from Mr. Brian Ward regarding a Transportation Study was perused and discussed. The Clerk will request copies of reports, which Mr. Ward omitted from his letter.

(d) Cloverleaf Drive Drainage problems – Update from Doug Seamone

. The Clerk will follow up with Mr. Ward regarding the Commission's request to place the Cloverleaf Drive drainage in the DOTPW Capital budget for 2006/2007. This item to be carried forward to the April, 2006 TAC Meeting.

It was moved by L. Lockhart, seconded by D. Chaulk that it be recommended to the Village Commission that the Clerk Treasurer write a letter to Hon. David Morse, MLA to request his assistance to have DOTPW deal with the Cloverleaf Drive drainage problem in 2006/2007. MOTION CARRIED

(e) Sidewalk Repairs at Bank of Nova Scotia – 2 Letters from B. Ward

Discussion took place regarding the two letters received by the Clerk from Mr. B. Ward with reference to the poor condition of the repairs to the Village's sidewalk adjacent to the Bank of Nova Scotia.

It was moved by D. Chaulk, seconded by L. Lockhart, that it be recommended to the Village Commission that a letter be forwarded to Mr. Brian Ward of DOTPW requesting a commitment from them to have the sidewalk adjacent to the Bank of Nova Scotia repaired two weeks prior to the Apple Blossom week-end, and putting the DOTPW on notice that if this is not done, the Village will repair the sidewalk and bill the DOTPW. MOTION CARRIED

The Contractor will be copied this letter, and P. Pothier agreed to get the contractor's name for that purpose.

5. NEW BUSINESS

(a) 3-Way Stop, Redden

T. Silver advised that during the Public Discussion Period at the Village Commission meeting held March 13, 2006, a member of the public requested TAC Chair Barrett to discuss with this Committee the possibility of approaching DOTPW for their consideration of placing a 3 way stop in the Redden Avenue, Crescent Drive area. It was determined by this Committee that a 4-way stop would be the only possibility.

It was moved by D. Chaulk, seconded by L. Lockhart, that it be recommended to the Village Commission to have the Clerk write a letter to DOTPW and request that Crescent Drive, Redden Avenue and be Lockhart Drive included in the traffic counts be carried out by DOTPW in the spring of 2006. MOTION CARRIED

(b) Pedestrian Traffic South Side of Commercial Street

T. Silver stated that during the Public Discussion Period at the Village Commission meeting held March 13, 2006, a member of the public requested TAC Chair Barrett to discuss with this Committee the possibility of making the south side of Commercial Street, where there are no sidewalks, safer for pedestrian traffic.

Discussion ensued on this topic and consideration was given to the fact that the shoulder belongs to DOTPW, and any grading or extended winging back of snow to accommodate pedestrian traffic would be their responsibility.

It was moved by G. Silver, seconded by L. Lockhart, that it be recommended to the Village Commission to consider the subject of sidewalks on the south side of Commercial Street to be part of the process for the proposed Transportation Study. MOTION CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

(a) ATV Activity in gravel pit area

G. Silver stated that he recently had the opportunity to be in the vicinity of the area where there is ATV activity (gravel pit), and said that there is no question that the level of noise in that area is high. He stated that it is his opinion that this Committee has no mandate to deal with the problem.

(b) Committee motions to the Commission

D. Chaulk stated that it is his feeling that Transportation Committee items are not being brought forward to the Village Commission, and asked for an explanation of the procedure. T. Silver stated that any Committee Chair, if that person is a Commissioner, would bring all business forward from TAC or other Committee to the Commission for consideration. If the Committee Chair is not a Commissioner, then he or she would appoint a Commissioner to give the report to the Commission. T. Silver stated that it has been rather awkward for the motions to get to the Commission in a timely manner because the TAC meetings are held the day after the Commission meeting; therefore a long time lapses between the meetings.

It was moved by D. Chaulk, seconded by L. Lockhart, that it be recommended to the Village Commission that the Terms of Reference for the Transportation Advisory Committee be amended to allow the TAC to hold its meetings on the first Wednesday of each month. MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of D. Chaulk, the meeting adjourned.

P. Saulnier, Vice-Chair

T. Silver, Clerk Treasurer