

VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JUNE 4, 2008
7:00 p.m.

The regular monthly meeting of the New Minas Transportation Advisory Committee was held on June 4, 2008 7:00 p.m. in the New Minas Civic Centre.

In Attendance: Dean Hatt, Chair
Don Hardy, Vice-Chair
Dave Chaulk, Commissioner
Dale Pineo, Commissioner
Gordon Silver, Citizen Member
Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer
Peter Pothier, Superintendent of Public Works

CALL TO ORDER – Commission Chair Dave Chaulk

D. Chaulk called the meeting to order.

ELECTION OF CHAIR – Nominations called for by Commission Chair Dave Chaulk

D. Chaulk called for nominations for Committee Chair. D. Pineo nominated Dean Hatt, seconded by D. Hardy. There being no other nominations, Dean Hatt was declared Chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR – Nominations called for by Chair

Chair Hatt called for nominations for Committee Vice-Chair. D. Chaulk nominated Don Hardy, seconded by G. Silver. There being no other nominations, Don Hardy was declared Vice-Chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – June 4, 2008

It was moved by D. Pineo, seconded by D. Hardy that the Agenda for the Regular meeting of the TAC of June 4, 2008 be approved with the following adjustments:

1. *“Sidewalk Projects – 2008/2009 Season – Gordon Silver”* should read *“Sidewalk Projects – Gordon Silver”*
2. Add to *“OTHER BUSINESS (a) Highway 101 – D. Chaulk, and (b) Motion to Village Commission – D. Hardy”* MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Monthly Meeting, March 5 2008

It was moved by D. Hardy, seconded by G. Silver that the minutes of the regular TAC meeting held March 5, 2008 be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Any Pending NSDOTIR Updates: Fred Whynot

T. Silver advised she had received an email from Fred Whynot, NSDOTIR, and the Chair requested Terry to read the email (email attached to original minutes). The following is a summary from Fred's updates:

- Guard Rail on Highbury Road – will be installed this year
- Subdivision Paving requests – Fred has forwarded info to Paul Maillet for consideration. Noted that Highbury Road and Prospect have been slated for asphalt this year.
- Home Depot Development – Stakeholder meeting to be held re intersection
- Cloverleaf Drive – drainage will be dealt with this summer
- Capital construction – requests have been forwarded for consideration
- Push button lights/four way stop at Crescent – no update

(b) Traffic Study Response – NSDOTIR – Fred Whynot

Fred commented on the Traffic Study in his email. To summarize:

- Study reveals traffic speed not bad
- Study stated signalized system through Commercial would not improve traffic flow – Fred found this interesting (too many mid-block turn offs/ons too allow effective traffic flow)
- The 1998 Study should not have been used – any reference to it would not be effective because the North Collector road was turned down.
- Current Granite Drive Capital improvements will improve local traffic
- Noted some conflict between computer results and those in the field. Model.
- Feels information collected for that study would be useful in future studies, and once Granite Drive is complete a new study could be initiated.

Fred's email mentioned the following new items:

- Sidewalk repairs on Prospect Road
- Should consider Sign-off agreements with the Village for sidewalk/sewer and other repairs prior to DTIR releasing breaking soil permits for individuals/companies.
- Stated no new sidewalk applications have been received.
- Red light shroud at Prospect/Commercial will be replaced asap
- Line painting underway, with some areas completed

The Committee was appreciative of Fred Whynot's work in keeping the Committee up-to-date, even though he was unable to attend.

It was moved by D. Chaulk, seconded by D. Pineo that it be recommended to the Village Commission to write a letter to Fred Whynot, NSDTIR expressing disappointment with the dismissal of the Transportation Study carried out by the Village in 2005/2006, and thereby requesting that the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal conduct a traffic study within the next 6 months to determine how traffic conditions can be improved on Commercial Street. This letter is to be copied to the MLA, the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and the Premier of Nova Scotia. MOTION CARRIED

(c) Sidewalk Projects– Gordon Silver

Gordon stated that everyone is aware that there are sidewalks in New Minas that require immediate attention. He stated they are also aware that the Village made a motion a number of years ago to designate \$50,000 per year for sidewalk construction. He feels that this Committee should ask the Commission to reconsider this procedure in order to deal with the poor condition of sidewalks currently in place.

It was moved by G. Silver, seconded by D. Chaulk, that it be recommended to the Village Commission to reconsider money allotted for new sidewalks every year to be for all sidewalks in general. MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

(a) Request for Crosswalk-Milne Avenue/Prospect – R. Rushton Letter

Mr. R. Rushton wrote a letter requesting a crosswalk be installed at Prospect Road and Milne Avenue. P. Pothier advised that there is a long process, and it would begin by requesting the NSDTIR to conduct a study on the area. They would determine if a crosswalk would be required, and what type of crossing would be required. The Village would then be required to pay for installation and a yearly maintenance fee to DTIR.

It was moved by D. Chaulk, seconded by D. Pineo, that it be recommended to the Village of New Minas that a letter be written to the NS Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal requesting them to do a study to determine if a crosswalk should be installed at Milne Avenue and Prospect Road. MOTION CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Highway101 – D. Chaulk

It was moved by D. Chaulk, seconded by D. Pineo that it be recommended to the Village Commission to write a letter to Eastern Kings Chamber of Commerce supporting their lobbying efforts to have Highway 101 twinned west beyond the current cut-off point of Avonport. MOTION CARRIED

(b) Motion to Village Commission – D. Hardy

D. Hardy expressed concern that the Municipality of the County of Kings reaps the benefits from the business and residential assessments in the Village of New Minas, and in his opinion gives a very small percentage back to the Village by way of funding. He stated that, although they provide a grant to the Village for 15% of NEW sidewalk construction, they have nothing in their bylaw for maintenance or resurfacing the Village's sidewalks. He felt that the County Council should be lobbied by a delegation from the Village Commission to make substantial annual grants to the Village for new sidewalk construction and for sidewalk maintenance/renewal.

It was moved by D. Hardy, seconded by D. Chaulk to recommend to the Village Commission to send a delegation to Kings County Council, with a well-thought recommendation to lobby Council to provide substantial annual funding for new sidewalks and/or maintenance and renewal of sidewalks, as deemed necessary by the Village Commission on a yearly basis. MOTION CARRIED

The Clerk will provide figures to the Committee showing the ratio between the tax revenue generated for Kings County from New Minas, and the entire County, with comparisons in the funding New Minas receives from the County.

CORRESPONDENCE**PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD****ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of D. Pineo, the meeting adjourned.

Dean Hatt, Chair

Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer