

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

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

**In Attendance:** Chair Dean Hatt  
Vice-Chair Pat Saulnier  
Village Commission Chair Dave Chaulk  
Citizen Member Gordon Silver  
Superintendent of Public Works Peter Pothier  
Clerk Treasurer Terry Silver

**Also in Attendance:** Ms. Sandra Horley, resident  
Mr. Gwynn Phillips, resident  
Mr. Wayne Hopkins, resident  
Mr. Gerard Hamilton, A/Supt of Public Works  
Mr. David Etter, resident

**CALL TO ORDER – Chair Dean Hatt**

Chair Dean Hatt called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA – March 7, 2007**

It was moved by D. Chaulk, seconded by G. Silver, that the Agenda for March 7, 2007 be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Monthly Meeting, Feb 7/07**

It was moved by D. Chaulk, seconded by G. Silver, that the minutes of the Regular monthly meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee held February 7, 2007 be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

a. Drainage Chair Hatt advised no update has been received from the  
Ditch/Storm Drains, County of Kings. Committee will be kept informed  
Jordan Subdivision,  
Prospect Road -  
Update

b. Sidewalk – Maple Avenue to Valley View Drive - Update

T. Silver advised that she had written a letter to the owner of the property in question, but the letter came back today in the mail undelivered. She has forwarded the letter to a different address, and should have an update at the April meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

a. Sidewalks – County Funding Agreement

T. Silver referred to the report to County Committee of the Whole with regard to proposed changes in Kings County funding for sidewalk construction. She outlined the County's report in a brief report (attached to original minutes) and discussion ensued.

The Clerk was asked to write a letter to the Municipality of the County of Kings requesting clarification on Option 2 in the presentation, advising that the Village is against any option that would show a reduction in funding, and also requesting that the Village of New Minas be kept informed of any developments in this regard.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD**

Mr. Gwynn Phillips, Resident

Mr. Phillips spoke on the traffic concerns of residents of Aalders Avenue North. He stated he is aware of the responsibilities for roads/sidewalks etc.. He stated some of the concerned residents have met with Hon. David Morse, and Hon. Morse's response to traffic counts on Aalders Avenue as quoted in Mr. Brian Ward's letter was: "These numbers are not correct". Mr. Phillips elaborated on the traffic counts and stated they were portrayed incorrectly in Mr. Ward's correspondence.

Mr. Phillips continued to cite dangerous situations on this street: many children walking, excessive traffic, snow banks, no sidewalks etc.. He stated the problem is still there, but he understands the Village has no authority to do anything.

Chair Hatt stated that the Village does not have authority, or any say, on what happens on the public roads. He said that the Transportation Committee and the Village Commission have worked for a long, long time to try and help the residents of Aalders Avenue with their concerns about traffic on their street.

Mr. David Etter, Resident

Mr. Etter asked if the Village has anything in writing pertaining to problems on Aalders Avenue. He stated that the snowplow is eroding Aalders Avenue

because the street is sinking. He emphasized the frustrations of the residents of Aalders Avenue North and the fact that the door seems to be closed, and that nothing is forthcoming to resolve the issues the residents have expressed.

G. Silver stated that the door is closed; the Village has no authority to do anything on the public roads that are the responsibility of Dept of Transportation. He said it is his opinion that a cul de sac would have been a good option, but DOTPW has stated this is not an option for them.

Mr. Gwynn Philips

Mr. Philips stated he is of the opinion that one person at the local DOTPW office makes the decision on his own and he cannot understand this.

G. Silver responded that it is his opinion from previous comments that Mr. Ward does not unilaterally "call the shots" in this regard.

Chair Hatt stated that there is plenty of information from DOTPW, and also the Traffic Study paid for by the Village of New Minas recommended the following resolutions for the Aalders Avenue area:

1. No left turn at intersection of Aalders Avenue and Aalders Avenue North;  
No right turn at intersection of Aalders Avenue North and Jones Road.
2. Make a portion of Aalders Avenue a dead end street
3. Construct a sidewalk on the south side of Aalders Avenue North

Mr. Philips expressed concern that a "nameless group of guys" make decisions on what happens in New Minas. He stated that the residents of Aalders Avenue North are talking with Hon. David Morse to find out why.

G. Silver stated that it was his opinion that putting up signs was a good remedy, however, the criteria as laid out by DOTPW does not warrant this move. G. Philips wanted to know what the criteria are and who sets it.

D. Chaulk stated that he feels this Committee and the Commission have done all they can do and feels it's a waste of time for the residents to ask DOTPW for signage again.

Mr. David Etter

Mr. Etter stated that signs have to be policed, and if they were erected, the people in the community would police them, but DOT has to erect them. G. Silver felt that installing a cul de sac would solve the problem, but again, there is no justification at the DOTPW level to do this.

P. Pothier stated that there is a real problem with re-routing traffic from Aalders Avenue onto Jones Road, where there is a school. He felt that the solutions quoted in the Study which would alleviate traffic congestion on Commercial Street should ultimately alleviate problems on Aalders Avenue.

Mr. Gwynn Philips

Mr. Philips wondered what impact the proposed new box store will have on the traffic issue. G. Silver stated that the future connector road near the mall would cut traffic; however, D. Chaulk pointed out that could be 5-10 years in the future.

P. Pothier stated that it had been mentioned tonight that pedestrians, in particular school children, were in great danger on Aalders Avenue because there are no sidewalks. He pointed out that there was a public meeting held by the Village last fall looking for support to borrow money to construct new sidewalks and there was no voice from Aalders Avenue North at that meeting.

Mr. David Etter

Mr. Etter adamantly stated that he has never wanted sidewalks; that's not his wish.

Mr. Gwynn Philips/ Ms. Sandra Horley

Mr. Philips and Ms. Horley stated that they want sidewalks, to which Mr. Etter stated he has never asked for nor does he want sidewalks – the street is not wide enough to accommodate sidewalks.

Terry Silver

Terry Silver stated to Mr. Etter that he was taking pictures with his camera throughout the meeting, and advised him that she does not give him permission to distribute or publish any pictures that include her.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Hatt thanked everyone for coming.

**On motion of Dave Chaulk, the meeting adjourned.**

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Dean Hatt, Chair

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Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer