
Joint Town and County Council Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 16, 2020, 6:30 pm
St. Andrew's Community Centre
81 Pomquet River Road
St. Andrew's, NS

Present were: Warden Owen McCarron
Deputy Warden Hughie Stewart
Councillor Mary MacLellan
Councillor Donnie MacDonald
Councillor Vaughan Chisholm
Councillor Remi Deveau
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie (by Zoom)

Mayor Laurie Boucher
Deputy Mayor Mary Farrell
Councillor Willie Cormier (by Zoom)
Councillor Donnie MacInnis
Councillor Jack MacPherson
Councillor Andrew Murray
Councillor Diane Roberts (by Zoom)

Regrets: Councillor Neil Corbett
Councillor Bill MacFarlane

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, CAO, County of Antigonish
Marlene Melanson, Director of Recreation, County of Antigonish
Meaghan MacNeil, MPAL, County of Antigonish

Steve Scannell, Director of Community Development, Town of Antigonish
Emily Stevenson, MPAL, Town of Antigonish

Also Present: Courtney McCarthy, WSP
Greg O'Brien, WSP

1. **Call to Order – Chairman, Warden Owen McCarron**

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden McCarron, at 6:35pm.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Warden McCarron asked for any additions or deletions to the agenda.

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

3. **Approval of June 29, 2020 Joint Council Minutes**

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions to the Joint Council Minutes of June 29, 2020.

Moved and Seconded

That the Joint Council minutes of June 29, 2020 be approved as presented

Carried

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. **New Business**

a. **Active Transportation Corridor Plan Presentation**

The consultants from WSP presented the Active Transportation Study Report. Following the presentation, Councillors from the Town and County were given the opportunity to ask questions of the consultants:

- How much of the Blue Route is finished?
 - The map on page two of the report outlines the progress of the Blue Route. Trunk 4 and the connection through Town would be part of the Blue Route.
- How were the surveys completed, and what was the response rate?
 - Page five of the report provides information about the public participation in the project, including the survey and in-person engagement sessions. A total of 265 surveys were completed.
- What is the involvement of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal?
 - They sit as a stakeholder on the steering committee. They do not have money to contribute to specific active transportation facilities but are including accommodation of those facilities in new or improved road surfaces. Provincial funding will need to come through application.
- Questions of clarification were asked regarding the proposed project phasing, funding, and facility type.
- Are the routes designed to be functional year-round?
 - Yes - most are asphalt surfaces. Maintenance is up to each municipal unit.

- What is the economic benefit of bringing the Blue Route to the area?
 - Users of the Blue Route will use the facilities and patronize the businesses in the area. Tourism should increase. Consultants don't have specific economic impact data. Bicycle Nova Scotia can be brought in to do a presentation on the Blue Route.
- What types of surfaces are tracking through Masstown and Pictou?
 - Unknown at this time but will follow-up with DTIR to find out.
- Why the focus on Trunk 4?
 - Focusing on Trunk 4 because it is an existing piece of infrastructure that is now overbuilt with the highway by-pass and provides an opportunity for a start. Trunk 4 can act as the spine to the active transportation system, and further expansion can connect into that spine as opportunities grow.

Councillors expressed their appreciation and thanks to the Town and County Recreation Departments and the consultants for the work that has been completed.

6. Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

7. Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:26pm.

Carried

Warden Owen McCarron

Mayor Laurie Boucher

Glenn Horne, CAO

Jeff Lawrence, CAO