

SVW Road Committee Meeting Minutes

Call to order

The sixth meeting of the Road Committee was held at the Community Services Building on 8/2/17 at 7:00 pm.

Attendees

Committee Members: Matthew Sundal, Shirley Begg, Susan Cooper Parker, Jodie Grisdale, Brian Fleming and two residents.

Members not in attendance

None.

Approval of Minutes

Matthew Sundal moved for adoption of the previous meeting minutes and it was unanimously approved.

Old Business

Shirley Begg asked if the full 2001 HWY 40 Functional Planning Study was on the Village website yet. Susan Cooper Parker looked it up and it was not there. Jodie Grisdale said she would follow up with Sharon Plett.

New business

The committee first discussed the Village meeting and residents questions. Most people were concerned about road safety, speeding and specifically pedestrian safety. The crowd size was perceived as being double the size of the previous year's meeting.

Susan brought up the comment that a resident voiced concern that in person speed counters were not used on weekends. Matt said there is a permanent electronic counter by the Capture the Flag facility. Thus this paired with the in person counter should pinpoint the volume of traffic within an acceptable range. In his opinion, that should not be a concern. Brian Fleming agreed, however Shirley noted that the permanent counter is not very reliable.

On another note, the committee acknowledged the resident who addressed the MLA directly. Her inflamed comments addressed her belief that government repeatedly threatens the Village with a bridge replacement ever 10 years or so. It was considered that this is a highly emotional issue yet we need to keep Cameron Westhead as an ally.

The MLA listened intently to the presentation. Several people said thanks to him afterwards and he wished us well in our meeting with Alberta Transportation (AT).

Shirley wondered why HWY 40 was changed to a primary highway. It used to be a secondary highway named 940. Matt said most residents don't know the difference. She also brought up disaster planning and that one bridge in the area couldn't handle the flow.

Next we discussed the results of the AT meeting. Susan read the list of items we learned. Shirley cautioned that the HWY 40 update could still happen in the next three years, even though it is currently not on the books. Shirley also commented that if you know how long the bridge is going to be then AT should know how high from the river. She was disappointed that they didn't look at the topographical map and was concerned about property access for residents on the East side.

Since AT would be contacting residents soon, Susan presented a letter to Villagers. The letter included information on the AT meeting and the notice that AT would be asking some for access to their property. After we edited the letter a discussion ensued about whether the roadway cross section would be included as an attachment. Jodie felt we needed to be transparent to the Village and give them all the information on the current plans. Susan would make the changes and the attachments remained. The letter needed to be forwarded to Sharon this week to meet the two week time frame. Matt would scan the cross section and send it to Susan. Sharon would ultimately email it to the Village.

Susan then passed out a list of next steps for the Committee. We decided that a Village information meeting would be helpful in the next year after all the studies are completed. Letters to AT, Brian Mason and Cameron Westhead were suggested. Contacts with First Nations representatives as well as environmental organizations were deemed important for the future. However, updating the Ghost Valley Community was not considered appropriate at this time.

Researching the use of speed cameras and bridge design possibilities like barriers were expected to be essential in the coming months. It is the hope of the committee that we will have input during the next six months. The fact we don't have a promise of a Social Impact Study still is of concern, so were wildlife corridors.

As we received email notice from HATCH that they would be in the Village to examine the current and the B-3 alignment on August 3rd. Shirley and Susan initially volunteered to show them around. Mayor Larry Anderson disapproved of this in an email. Brian agreed and indicated that if he was the consultant, he would be wary that we would try to influence them and be argumentative. Shirley explained that the last time AMEC came out to the Village they were accosted by residents.

A discussion followed that listed the purpose of having Committee Representatives present. If those reps were solely observers and community member buffers then we all supported a presence. We wanted to be seen as friendly and helpful to the new consultant. It was determined that Matt and Shirley would be there. Matt would contact Larry on the change and Shirley would contact Sharon to inform HATCH.

Susan asked whether we really wanted the B-3 alternative investigated. Shirley thought it was important to represent the whole community and she felt the three properties on the West side closest to the bridge would want this option looked at. Susan passed out a pros and con list of

B-4, B-3 and the current location. She started to discuss it however Brian interjected and questioned whether this was a waste of time at this point. Susan thought it was important but acquiesced because of time constraints.

Susan distributed a list of eventual compromises to consider with AT. She asked the committee to examine them for the next meeting as it was clear that it would not be looked at in this meeting.

The residents in attendance were concerned about the life of the bridge and when the next inspection was scheduled. We discussed that the bridge was considered a level 3 and if it dropped below that, weight limits would be adjusted. This could mean school buses would not be able to use it. Susan reminded everyone that she needed to get the consultants locations of where next year's bus stops would be.

The next Committee Meeting would be on August 18th at 7:00pm at the Community Services Building. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Susan Cooper Parker
Secretary

8/18/17

Date of approval