

SVW Road Committee Meeting Minutes

Call to order

The tenth meeting of the Road Committee was held at the Community Services Building on 12/13/17 at 7:07 pm.

Attendees

Committee Members: Shirley Begg, Susan Cooper Parker, Jodie Grisdale, Matthew Sundal, Brian Fleming and around 5 Villagers attended. Matt served as Chair and created the agenda.

Members not in attendance

None.

Approval of Minutes

Shirley Begg asked for two changes to the previous meeting's minutes. First that Matt Sundal was not voted in as Interim Chair and that the survey was actually not a 3D GPS scanner. It was decided that since they told us it was going to be a 3D GPS scanner -- to leave that in the minutes. However, all voted to change the minutes to reflect that no vote took place. All approved.

Old Business

Shirley commented that we are not sure on how many residents gave approval of access for the geological/topographic survey. She said that although she gave permission to surveyors, contrary to her own interests, that it did not mean she or anyone approves of the B-4 route. She gave permission in order to expedite the process. The committee went on record as not supporting B-4. Shirley reported that the geological/topographic survey was a traditional one because GPS doesn't work well in trees. It was noted that they surveyed the point. It was a concern that the surveyors did not wear safety vests and they walked on the ice. It was believed by all that the survey was either done or close to being done. The geological/topographic survey is critical to determine the best route. Jodie Grisdale said she tried to assure residents who voiced concerns to her about the survey.

Matt gave the Council Update. On November 22nd the Council decided in their special meeting that the current location is the only alternative that Council approves. B-4 remains the only other location being surveyed as that was the Government's original stance. Jodie pointed out that Nov 22nd was the first time Council as a whole decided what their official stance on the bridge location was.

Matt then reported on the December 4th regular Council meeting. Council changed their previous decision of August 28th on how many councilors would serve on the Committee. They decided that only one member would remain. Matt would be removed from the Committee on Dec. 31st as some Villagers mistakenly thought he had a conflict of interest and Brian would serve as the Village Rep. Brian will not be a voting member of the Committee and will act solely as an advisor. It was said that Council voted unanimously.

Next Matt read a letter that Sharon Plett wrote to Alberta Transportation on November 23rd. Susan Cooper Parker thought it was interesting that at no point did the letter ask for the B-3 alignment to be dropped. Susan assumed that the reason it was dropped was because of Willow Drive residents' phone complaints to Don Oliver. She cited the survey map sent out to the residents on the 24th was a completely different survey map from the one sent out on Nov 10th. Brian Fleming said the formal position of Council is that B-3 is no longer being looked at because of the Village's letter. Note: The first geological/topographic survey letter was only sent to residents whose properties were going to be surveyed, through the CAO per Hatch. This was an access request. The second geological/topographic survey map was sent to the whole Village, through the CAO per Hatch for the purpose of giving notice to the Village of surveyors in the area.

New Business

On Nov 22nd the Council drafted a mandate for the Road Committee and on Dec 4th they adopted it. Matt then read the mandate, the goals and objectives. Susan wanted it noted in the minutes that the Committee is getting a mandate seven months after the Council formed the Road Committee.

Next, in order to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Road Committee Matt wanted to read the Bylaws and Protocols of the Road Committee. Brian Fleming and Shirley wondered if it was necessary as we had already done this in our first meeting when we were formed. Matt thought it was necessary to refresh the information for the committee and to supply it to residents who attended the meeting. He then read the Bylaws and Protocols.

Several items were discussed during this reading. First a Villager complained about not being notified about meetings of the Road Committee. Jodie took exception to this as she has always posted the information at least a week before the meetings. Susan also said that even when Jodie was on holiday, that she had posted it. It was explained to this person that we post all meetings on the website and the bulletin board by the water pump and we have been doing this since May. Matt said it is Council's position that the only official place it needs to be posted is on the website, however we will still put it on the bulletin board. Another resident thought this was unfair as he does not have internet. The original resident who brought up the postings still thought Villagers should receive a special announcement. It was suggested he contact Council.

Susan pointed out that communications from the Committee that does not set policy does not need to be vetted by Council. She noted that we shouldn't have had to wait for the Mayor's approval when sending out thank you notes. Matt said that since Larry was mentioned in the letter that in fact we needed to wait for his approval.

We discussed that unapproved Minutes are now on the website for both the Council and the Committee. Those are supposed to be submitted to administration within two weeks. This insures transparency. Jodie had asked this to be done about six months ago.

Referring to Bylaw Number 64-99 #12, Susan brought up that it says the Committee is to meet semi annually with Council and that we have not had that opportunity. Brian commented that in fact the Committee did meet with Council on Nov 22nd. Susan said you mean the meeting where we were not invited and were not allowed to speak or ask questions? Brian said yes as the majority of the Committee was in attendance. Jodie pointed out that in other municipalities, Council invites Committees to meetings where they are involved out of courtesy. Susan took exception to Brian's comments and he eventually conceded that it was not in fact a meeting with Council. The Councilors in attendance said in the future it is the Committee's responsibility to get on the Council's agenda semiannually.

Citing Bylaw Number 64-99 #10, Susan wanted to get clarification on why we are not following it. It says that a Chairperson for the Committee should be appointed after a Council liason is appointed to the Committee. Since Brian was just appointed and Shirley resigned ... a vote should happen now. Brian, as council rep, said that he thought that we should wait until a new member is appointed in January before we appoint a new Chair. Susan wanted it in the minutes that we are deviating from the Bylaw and Shirley said it was concerning that we are picking and choosing what Bylaws to follow.

Next Susan asked whether the CAO really wanted to be copied on every email that we send to each other. Matt's interpretation, as a member of Council, was that if we are emailing a member of Council who has a Village email that in fact Sharon is essentially being included in our emails as she has access to all of them.

A Villager then complained that he had not been able to get Sharon to respond to him in ten days. Matt explained that Sharon had been ill and would get back to him soon. However, Matt would contact Sharon himself to make sure she responded.

Shirley discussed that during meetings it would be good if Villagers would introduce themselves and where they live. Everyone agreed this is a good suggestion.

Next Matt read a letter from a resident to the Road Committee that thanked them for their work. Then Jodie read a response letter from Don Oliver that was sent to a resident who asked why B-3 was dropped and which survey map was correct. Don said the Road Committee asked for B-3 to be dropped. As Jodie pointed out, we are not able to do this per protocols so this is false. She was concerned that even though our hands are tied, it could come back on us and she wanted it clarified to residents.

Jodie wondered if there was a Code of Conduct for the Council, Committee Members and Villagers. Matt said he didn't know. She thought all Municipalities had one and there should be one to follow with consequences. It was mentioned that Council needs to be careful not to divide the Village and pit one side against the other.

Jodie also commented that no wonder we got ahead of ourselves as a Committee as we were meeting every two weeks and Council was meeting every two months so there was six weeks of dead space. Susan did not think we overstepped as we followed all the rules and Jodie agreed.

Jodie asked for clarification on nonresidents attending Committee meetings. Matt reiterated that these are public meetings and anyone can attend. A resident said that a Ghost Country Place community member was told they were not welcome at our meetings. Susan said she had talked to the wife of that person and at no time told them they were not welcome. That woman had expressed how they felt uncomfortable at the Nov 13th meeting and probably would think twice about attending in the future. It was suggested that in the future other stakeholders like Ghost Country Place be invited to meetings. Matt said this was not the policy of the Village and that if others wanted to attend they needed to follow the Village's website for notification of meetings.

The Committee then debriefed the Nov 13th meeting briefly. Most on the Committee thought it was unfair to send out an email inviting a select group to a meeting the following night. This was referring to the fact that the Council decided to send out a special email notice to those residents who received the first geological/topographic survey letter to a Special Meeting of the Road Committee called by Deputy Mayor Matt. The Road Committee would have preferred all be invited instead of a select group. This broke with protocol, as per Council, meeting notices are only supposed to be posted on the website. Thus the Committee was not prepared for such a turnout as they only had been informed of the Special meeting in the same time period.

It was noted that the Committee had not been informed, by Alberta Government, the CAO or the Council, that three options were going to be officially looked at in the geological/topographic initial survey letter. This came as a surprise as previously the Government had said that it would check on which options could be looked at. Thus when the residents who were being surveyed received their access approval notifications for geological/topographic surveying purposes, only Committee members who were part of the survey knew what was being communicated. Shirley wanted clear and honest reporting to the Committee and all Villagers.

Jodie previously had called for transparency to the Village in one of our first meetings and reiterated that. The Committee has never supported any other alignments through the Village but the current one. Shirley pointed out in the AMEC Study in the Environmental Overview it says that: Maintaining existing HWY 40 ROW through this section is recommended to minimize disturbance.

Next Brian brought up that he had heard comments about "Back Room Deals" and "Old Boys Club". He seemed to admonish some Committee members and said that in his time on Council he has not seen any such activity. He also said that he interpreted the Committee's role as providing fact based research to the Council. Also he said that residents should take the time to inform themselves.

Then a Villager said he thought the real breakdown of communication happened from Council to the Road Committee. Another resident reiterated that he does not have access to the internet and that he cannot get the information on the website. We informed that person that the CAO is happy to print out any information that is requested and can mail it to them. He also was concerned about personnel of the current Road Committee. He was told to contact the Council as they appointed the Committee.

Next a discussion followed about the website and how the Road Committee's is different from the Fire Smart Committee's. Susan suggested three pull downs instead of the one on the survey results. Matt thought there should be four. All decided that there should be four pull downs and they should be: Upcoming Meetings, Committee News (which would include the survey),

Committee Minutes and Background Information. Jodie and Susan thought there should also be something on our page to direct people to write to the CAO if they wanted to contact the Committee. Jodie was tasked with contacting Sharon on changing this on the website.

A resident asked if the new survey results would be shared with the public. Matt thought it was probably unlikely that the Government would do this.

Next Susan and Michael Parker gave a presentation on Road Alignment Options. They measured the current road and presented a chart on how this looks with the Urban Road Design currently proposed by Government and how a possible Village proposed road design would differ. Although the ROW is 20m to fence line only about 14m is actually cleared. An Urban Design would require clearing of 3m of trees on each side. This would drastically change the aesthetic appearance of the Summer Village of Waiparous. Instead their proposal minimizes tree clearing and provides a separate bike/pedestrian trail that keeps people away from the traffic. It also does not allow for illegal parking on shoulders. Michael warned that this should be brought up to the Consultants as soon as possible because once an engineer comes up with a plan it is nearly impossible to change what is already on paper. Brian said he would bring this to Council before their next meeting.

Susan thought that Council should have a letter to accompany this chart and suggested that they resurrect the previous letter she had written to Don Oliver and change it to suit the new situation. Susan was tasked with changing the chart to reflect a different audience and send it to Brian as a PDF along with a letter. She looked forward to Brian's feedback at the next meeting on how Council received the information and what they did with it.

A subcommittee was formed to complete the already started Work Plan. Susan and Jodie were assigned as they had worked on it in June. Brian asked if they could work quickly as the next Council meeting is Feb 20th. Matt thought it would be relatively easy as they now had a mandate. They said they would try but that Susan was away at the end of January and then there was the holidays before that.

Jodie mentioned that Larry had contacted her directly about his discussions with Perry Prout on Alberta Government signage along the Road. She reported that Larry said speed bumps are not allowed but rumble strips are OK. No one thought the Village would be interested in the noise created by rumble strips.

Matt thought that the Committee should work on a pros and cons list of the two alignments and formally report it to Council. This was taken under advisement.

It was decided that the next Committee Meeting would tentatively be on January 10th at 7:00pm at the Community Services Building depending on Jodie's work schedule. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Susan Cooper Parker

1/8/18

Secretary

Date of approval