

SVW Road Committee Meeting Minutes

Call to order

The eleventh meeting of the Road Committee was held at the Community Services Building on 1/8/18 at 7:10 pm.

Attendees

Committee Members: Shirley Begg, Susan Cooper Parker, Jodie Grisdale, and Brian Fleming attended. Susan served as Chair and created the agenda.

Members not in attendance

None.

Nominations

The Road Committee was informed by the Council Liaison, Brian Fleming, that there unfortunately would not be a new member to take Matthew Sundal's place. After two mini newsletter emails asking for volunteers, no Villagers applied for the vacancy. Susan Cooper Parker was disappointed that no one came forward and wondered if we could go back to the original list of people who volunteered back in spring of 2017. Brian said that it was Council's position the committee would proceed without a new member.

Next Shirley Begg nominated Susan as Chair and Jodie Grisdale seconded. Susan was voted in as Chair. A discussion ensued if Susan could/would remain as Secretary. Susan accepted both roles unless in the future it became too much. She asked other members of the Committee to help her take notes if we had guests in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Shirley moved to adopt the previous meeting's minutes. All approved. In regards to the agenda, Shirley asked to clarify her position. It was added as the first item of Old Business. Jodie moved to accept the agenda. All approved.

Council Update

Brian informed the Committee that he had forwarded the ROW Road Chart and the letter to the Council. However, there was no discussion yet on the matter by Council and he did not have a

date when they would be discussing it. He did emphasize that he was cognizant of the urgency of the information with regards to the imminent Functional Planning Study.

Next he reported that Sharon Plett had received a letter from Don Oliver, which said the topographic survey of the road alignments was completed on Dec. 11th and that a draft report of the Functional Planning Study should be finished by the end of March 2018 at which time it will be sent to Alberta Transportation. He also informed us that we would not be able to put a copy of this letter in our files, per the Council. The reason for this was unclear. Jodie asked if Council was aware of this email letter as it contained some very important information. Brian wasn't positive but thought they were.

Then Brian reiterated that his role as liaison is to communicate recommendations to the Council from the Committee and to work in alignment with Council. Shirley asked for the courtesy of reciprocal information and trust. Jodie commented that per the Council's Minutes, the Council had very little discussion on the Road Committee and the bridge situation. Susan said that it wasn't surprising since Council had not had a regular meeting for almost five months after they assigned the Road Committee. They did have a couple of special meetings during the summer but those did not have the normal agendas with Committee reports in them.

Old Business

Shirley wanted to set the record straight that at no time during her 15 years working on the bridge project had she ever supported the B-3 alignment. In fact historically, she personally insisted that consultants come out to Waiparous to get a true picture of the topography instead of looking at a couple of lines on a map. In 2017, she and Matt accompanied the new consultants to show them the devastation to the environment, the elevation differences and the huge social impacts that any other alignment other than the current one would have. She was personally hurt by the innuendos thrown about. Shirley thought that if the whole Village had been invited to our Nov. 13th meeting there would have been a different outcome.

A discussion then ensued where Shirley thought that Hatch was surprised by the proposal other than the current alignment. Brian felt optimistic that Hatch would genuinely weigh the two locations, but that we should still be cautious. Shirley was relieved that there was now a middle ground as the previous Functional Planning Study was deemed a bad report by many of her professionals. However, then Brian said we don't want to push government too hard. Susan responded that this time, the Council hasn't pushed government at all. Shirley said we all have a vested interest in where the bridge goes and we have the good of the whole Village in mind.

Susan reported that there is a Code of Conduct. It is Bylaw 133-17 and it was added on July 22nd. As this Bylaw is only for Councilors, it would be Council's decision if there should be a Code of Conduct for Villagers and Committee Members. Brian suggested that maybe like a Doctor's office ... there should be a sign on the wall of the Community Services Building advising people that if they are disrespectful they will be asked to leave. He would bring it up with Council.

Next on the agenda was procedures. Susan said in the future she would ask residents to identify themselves when addressing the Committee. Brian said the Committee is an extension of Council and it should follow similar rules. During the resident dialogue, questions must be asked thru the Chair. If residents want to speak during the regular meeting they must get on the agenda. Susan

said we need balance between a simpler Rogers Rules and understanding that sometimes people just need to be heard. She proposed that all communication to the CAO go thru Jodie about the website. This would include sending the Committee Minutes within the two week time period. Everyone agreed this made sense. Committee members thought that the Chair should read a blurb about procedures and decorum before each meeting.

Jodie then confirmed that there are now 5 pull down tabs for the Committee on the website. There is also a blurb on the Road Committee home page telling people if they want to contact the Committee to write to administration. We thanked Sharon for getting those changes done.

Susan and Jodie noted that they continue to compose the Work Plan. They should be able to get it done in enough time to send it to Council before their next meeting.

Susan read a letter she had sent to a Ghost Country resident. A Villager had claimed that the resident was told they were not welcome at our meetings. The letter explained that our meetings are open to the public. She received a response back from that resident saying that the Villager got it wrong.

New Business

Susan recounted that a different Villager had come to her home the day after our December Committee meeting because they were upset and wanted information. She had an hour and a half discussion with that Villager where she explained the situation and listened to his concerns. Then Susan read a Thank You letter she wrote as a private citizen to that person after their meeting. Besides thanking that person for his concern and for taking the time to get answers - - she hoped he thought she had answered his questions fully and truthfully. She ended the letter by saying he could contact her with any further concerns.

Susan proposed getting on the Feb. 20th Council agenda in order to present the Work Plan, plus the pro's and con's list. As the Council only meets every other month, it is imperative to get on that agenda because the Functional Planning Study will be done before the April Council meeting. Several things need to be expressed to the Consultants before they finish the study. Committee members expressed their approval and Brian said he would ask for us to be able to present at the meeting.

Susan stressed that even though the CAO received a brief update on Hatch's progress, we are due a detailed updated schedule like the milestones in the Government's Terms of Reference. Brian said he would ask the Council to get that.

The Committee thought it was important to communicate our plans for 2018 to the Village and to relay the schedule. It was determined that after we get that information and have an approved Work Plan, a letter should be written to residents. In the future we will have to ask Council for permission to survey residents. We need to speak as a unified strong voice.

Shirley recalled that when the Village was first incorporated there were no bylaws. They had to come up with a land use bylaw because there were so many heated opinions on what should be done. Back then people would get very upset but still had comradery and community.

Susan pointed out that on the website there is a new map that has a red line where the current roads are. Susan recommended that the Council pay for a new map to be created so that we don't have to cross out the roads that do not exist. Brian took it under advisement.

Susan noted that a budget would need to be formed if B-4 ends up being the Consultant's recommended alignment. At this point, she had paid for paper and binders herself but we would have more expenses for paperwork, legal advice and possible litigation. Shirley pointed out the Committee used to have a fund of money. Brian and Susan thought they remembered that the funds are still there but not labeled as Road Committee. Brian would confirm that this money was still available.

Next steps were reiterated and it was decided that the next Road Committee Meeting would tentatively be on Feb. 13th at 7:00pm at the Community Services Building. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Susan Cooper Parker

2/13/18

Secretary/Chair

Date of approval

Unadopted