

SVW Road Committee Meeting Minutes

Call to order

The ninth meeting of the Road Committee was held at the Community Services Building on 11/13/17 at 7:00 pm.

Attendees

Committee Members: Shirley Begg, Susan Cooper Parker, Jodie Grisdale, Matthew Sundal, Brian Fleming, around 25-30 Villagers and Mayor Larry Anderson. Mayor Anderson however, was not a scheduled presenter in the meeting.

Members not in attendance

None.

New business

The meeting was called to translate a Hatch email to residents requesting property access for survey purposes. Those residents who received that letter also received email notice about the impromptu special meeting by the Road Committee from Sharon Plett. It should be noted that residents are always invited to the committee's meetings and can find the dates on the website or at the Village bulletin board.

Shirley Begg called the meeting to order and introduced the members of the committee to the guests. The agenda was unanimously approved. The order of the meeting was designed specifically to address concerns of residents and deviated from the normal order of business.

Matthew Sundal welcomed the guests and clarified the position of the Road Committee and Village Council -- the Bridge needs to stay in the original location but may have minor changes in elevation and curves. Then he went on to speak about the Hatch letter and his conversation with Don Oliver of Hatch that day. He explained that Hatch would be doing topographical surveys with a hand held 3D GPS scanner. They would also need to measure the riverbed and road approaches/access. The survey would be 60 metres wide to deal with drainage issues and general topographical studies. The roadway would not be 60 metres. Currently the existing road allowance is 30 metres. We have not been informed how wide the planned road would be

To date, Hatch has received 4-5 approvals for survey access. They are hoping to do the survey work the week of November 27, 2017. Then give the recommended route information to Alberta Transportation in March. Matt said that Don Oliver is open to talking with residents about any concerns and he encouraged concerned individuals to contact him. Many in attendance said they had already called Mr. Oliver.

The floor was opened up for questions and concerns. The first resident to speak wanted to know why and how B-3, the Willow Drive route, came to be an option again. The next resident said he would be contacting the Transportation Minister that there is a conflict of interest on the Road Committee and he believed the committee should be disbanded. That person ended up leaving the meeting without listening to any explanations. Another resident, was concerned whatever way the road went that her property would be obliterated. She accused the Council of instigating the bridge replacement by asking for a footbridge. An additional resident said the optics of having Shirley Begg on the committee is a conflict of interest and again questioned why the B-3 route is being investigated. Several other comments were made.

The committee tried to answer all questions and Matt fielded the majority of the discussion. He explained the situation and assured everybody that the committee had the interests of the whole Village in mind. In fact he said that he hoped no one's property would be appropriated or even partially. Larry Anderson also gave his version of the facts. Since several residents were concerned with a perceived conflict of interest, Matt explained that the committee needed to go in camera to deal with personnel issues.

The committee came back after the in camera session and Shirley resigned as chair of the Road Committee. Matt served as Interim Chair. Matt then reminded all that membership on the Road Committee is set by Council. The Road Committee mandate is to gather information and pass it along to Council and they cannot directly speak with Alberta Transportation without Council and Administration approval. Villagers in attendance continued to be upset and concerned with a perceived lack of communication on the bridge replacement.

Matt read a letter from a resident addressed to the road committee that he thought was helpful. He urged others to write to their MLA and/or to the Transportation Minister in an equally professional manner without emotion. Susan Cooper Parker confirmed that many of her letters before she was appointed to the committee were successful and that the government was receptive to the public.

Larry asked a resident who had first hand historical information whether it was a safety concern to replace the bridge in 1979. He said it was never a safety concern but originated due to a proposed sour gas plant on Richards Road. They needed a highway to move the sulphur. The Summer Village was actually formed in order to fight this highway through the residences. He said it was important for the community to keep fighting now too.

After recognizing problems with communication, Matt continued with the agenda items. The previous meeting's minutes were approved with Shirley abstaining due to the fact she was not at the last meeting. No old business arising from the minutes was discussed.

Next steps included devising a mechanism for better communications and developing a letter to the rest of the Village informing them of Hatch's survey. This letter should include the map.

Residents discussed how to respond to Hatch and whether to do it in a timely manner. One resident suggested that they would make sure the surveyors could only come on their property if accompanied. Shirley warned others about her experience of having trees trimmed and cut down previously. Matt didn't feel unapproved access would be a problem this go around.

Jodie Grisdale confirmed that she would check to see if the Road Committee Minutes could be posted on the website. She thought it was nice to have so many people show up and voice their

concerns. A villager commented that he thanked the Committee for their time and for getting the province to look at replacing the bridge in the current location.

It was decided that the next Committee Meeting would tentatively be on December 13th at 7:00pm at the Community Services Building. The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Susan Cooper Parker

12/13/17

Secretary

Date of approval