

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH
COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 7:30pm

Council Chambers
Municipal Administration Building
285 Beech Hill Road
Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

-
1. Call to Order – Chair Owen McCarron
 2. Approval of Agenda
 3. Approval of November 14, 2023 Municipal Council Minutes
 4. Business Arising from the Minutes
 5. Public Hearings
 6. Correspondence
 - a. Thank-you Letter from Antigonish Heritage Museum
 7. Committee Reports
 - a. November 28, 2023 Asset Management Committee Report
 - b. November 28, 2023 Committee of the Whole Report
 - c. November 29, 2023 Joint Council Committee Report
 - d. December 11, Asset Management Committee e-Poll Report
 - e. December 12, 2023 Committee of the Whole Report
 8. Reports from Individual Council Members on Outside Boards, Conferences, and Community Activities
 9. Motions
 10. Miscellaneous Business
 - a. Holiday Best Wishes
 11. Adjournment

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF **ANTIGONISH**

Municipal Council Meeting- Minutes

**Tuesday, November 14, 2023
Immediately Following the Committee of the Whole
Council Chambers
Municipal Administration Building
285 Beech Hill Road
Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4**

Councillors Present:

Warden Owen McCarron
Acting Deputy Warden Bill MacFarlane
Councillor Mary MacLellan
Councillor Donnie MacDonald
Councillor Shawn Brophy

Councillor Remi Deveau
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Harris McNamara (by Zoom)

Regrets:

Deputy Warden Hugh Stewart

Staff Present:

Glenn Horne, CAO

Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk

Also Present:

Gallery (in person and on Zoom)
Drake Lowthers, The Reporter
Connie Clement, Antigonish Affordable
Housing Society

Matt Draper, XFM (by Zoom)
Colleen Cameron, Antigonish Affordable
Housing Society

Call to Order- Chairman, Warden Owen McCarron

Warden McCarron called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Approval of Agenda

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

Min # 2023-120

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Approval of October 10, 2023 Municipal Council Minutes

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the minutes included in the agenda package.

Min # 2023-121

Moved and Seconded

That the Municipal Council Minutes of October 10, 2023 be approved.

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Delegations

Antigonish Affordable Housing – Appleseed Second Phase Development

Glenn Horne declared a conflict of interest, as he sits on the AAHS Board.

Representatives from Antigonish Affordable Housing introduced their plans for a second phase of their development on Appleseed Drive, on land donated by the Province. An overview of various aspects of their operation, including their solar panels, utilities for the development, and rent pricing was briefly reviewed. Antigonish Affordable Housing is requesting a contribution of \$150,000 over five years from the County, to assist with the development of the second phase of the build on Appleseed Drive.

Questions that were asked pertained to tender processes, anticipated completion dates for the build, and whether any sidewalk is included is factored into the budget. Some suggestions were also shared regarding accessibility, and Colleen shared her appreciation for that input and a desire for further consultation to ensure that the barrier-free units function as intended. Antigonish Affordable Housing was commended by several members of the Committee for the work that they have done to help to address the topic of affordable housing in the community, and the work done by the volunteer board executive of the organization to support the project was also noted.

Warden McCarron thanked the Antigonish Affordable Housing Society for their presentation and will take the request under consideration.

Correspondence

Mr. Horne spoke to a letter to the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities from several municipal units regarding improvements to cell phone coverage for emergency preparedness, in light of the forest fires that took place through the province earlier in the year. Mr. Horne also spoke to correspondence included in the agenda package regarding

the recent announcement from Build Nova Scotia regarding provincial investment into telecommunications and communications networks throughout the province.

Mr. Horne also reviewed correspondence received from the Minister of Public Works regarding the request for updates about the request for a review of speeds and pedestrian counts, which noted that those reviews were not yet completed.

Committee Reports

October 24, 2023 Asset Management Committee Report

No recommendations were put forward.

October 24, 2023 Committee of the Whole Report

Min # 2023-122

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council send a letter to Minister Masland, MLAs Thompson and Morrow, and Warden Pitts of the District of Guysborough regarding concerns with the deferral of the construction of the roundabout at the intersection of Trunk 4 and Trunk 16 in Monastery, due to its priority to the community to address safety concerns.

Motion Carried

November 14, 2023 Committee of the Whole Report

Min # 2023-123

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approves the signing of the Order for Winter Parking Regulations for 2023-24 setting out the period from December 1, 2023 to April 15, 2024 as the time in which Winter Parking Regulations will be in effect on roads/streets under the jurisdiction of the County of Antigonish.

Motion Carried

Min # 2023-124

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approves a contribution of \$27,730 toward the cost overrun on the replacement of the Antigonish Arena chiller and condenser, with the same amount being provided by the Town of Antigonish.

Motion Carried

Min # 2023-125

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council excuses Deputy Warden Stewart from the Municipal Council meeting of November 14, 2023.

Motion Carried

Reports from individual Council Members on Outside Boards, Conferences, and Community Activities

- Councillor MacDonald provided an update from Eastern Region Solid Waste Management. He noted that their new enforcement truck is in transit for delivery. An update regarding the Extended Producer Responsibility Program, noting upcoming consultations with municipal staff and other major stakeholders. The 2023/2024 budget was presented and passed by the ERSWM committee.
- Councillor Deveau noted that he had attended the Recreation Nova Scotia Conference, and that during a session at the conference presenters from the Province showcased photos of the accessibility infrastructure at Pomquet Beach. Councillor Deveau also attended Hospital Help Day, the NSFM conference in Halifax, and an EMO education session for Town and County Councillors about the Incident Command System (ICS).
- Warden McCarron shared that he attended the NSFM conference in Halifax earlier in the month. He also attended Hospital Help Day, which he noted was well supported by the community.

Motions

Mrs. Schumacher noted that the proposed amendments to the By-Law Respecting Local Improvements were being brought forward to Council for consideration for second reading. Notice as required by the Municipal Government Act was undertaken by placing an advertisement in the local paper in accordance with the required notification timelines.

Min # 2023-126

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approve the proposed amendments to a By-law Respecting Local Improvements for Second Reading, and that Municipal Council approve the proposed amendments to Municipal Local Improvements Fees Policy.

Motion Carried

Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

Miscellaneous Business

There was no miscellaneous business.

Adjournment

Min # 2023-127

Moved

That the Council meeting adjourns at 8:03pm.

Motion Carried

Warden Owen McCarron

Glenn Horne, CAO



20 East Main Street, Antigonish, NS, B2G 2E9

1 November 2023

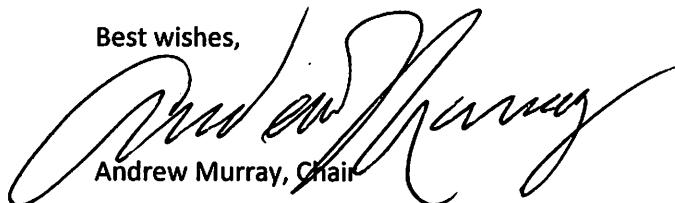
Warden Owen McCarron, Councillors and Staff
Municipality of the County of Antigonish
285 Beech Hill Road
Beech Hill, NS
B2G 0B4

Dear Warden McCarron, Councillors and Staff,

On behalf of the Antigonish Heritage Museum Board, I wish to thank you formally for your enthusiastic support of our Museum, and particularly for your positive response to our request for an increase in funding. We look forward to building on the momentum which has been gained, as we continue to make the Museum a prime cultural hub for the Town and County.

Be sure to drop by the Museum periodically to view our exhibits and to take part in our programming. We are very proud of your support.

Best wishes,



Andrew Murray, Chair

November 29, 2023

Warden Owen McCarron
Municipality of the County of Antigonish
285 Beech Hill Road
Beech Hill, Nova Scotia
B2G 0B4

Dear Warden McCarron:

Please find attached a recent Speed Limit Review conducted by our district Traffic Supervisor for a section of Route 337, just north of the Antigonish Town line.

Sincerely,



Basil Pitts C.E.T.
Area Manager
Antigonish-Guysborough

Cc: Paul Colton, District Director Eastern

File: 337-030

MEMORANDUM

To: Paul Colton, P. Eng.
District Director- Eastern

Date: November 17, 2023

Subject: Speed Limit Review- Route 337 From the Start of
the 80 km/h Zone near Mount Cameron Circle to Landing Road
Antigonish Landing, Antigonish County

Further to the request of Councillor Donnie MacDonald and follow up requests from the Municipality of the County of Antigonish and MLA Thompson, the existing 80 km/h posted speed limit on the portion of Route 337 from the beginning of the zone near the south end of Mount Cameron Circle northerly to Landing Road has been reviewed.

Background

Reviews completed in 2011 and 2014, at the request of Councillor MacDonald, concluded that the 80 km/h limit should be retained. An additional request to review was received 2016 but it was denied given that the section had been reviewed only two years previously. In 2019 speed information was collected and presented to Councillor MacDonald at his request. Although the current review has taken several years to complete, based on previous results, periodic observation of road conditions and physical characteristics, and having undertaken elements of the review throughout the intervening period, there was no indication that there were any elements of concern in terms of traffic safety as it related to the existing speed limit.

Information

The study section of Rte 337 is a two-lane, two-way highway with gravel shoulders and a posted speed limit of 80 km/h. The section begins at a point located approximately 160 m north of Mount Cameron Circle (south end) and extends approximately 1.2 km northerly to Landing Road. The posted speed limit to the south of the section to the Antigonish Town line is 50 km/h. AADT (2023) for the section 337-030 is 3520 vpd.

The physical characteristics of the section are consistent with previous examinations- alignment of the study section is good with no horizontal or vertical curvature requiring warning signage and road condition is good.

There are two intersections within the study area: Mount Cameron Circle (north end) and Antigonish Landing Road. Both intersections are stop controlled and have acceptable stopping sight distance.

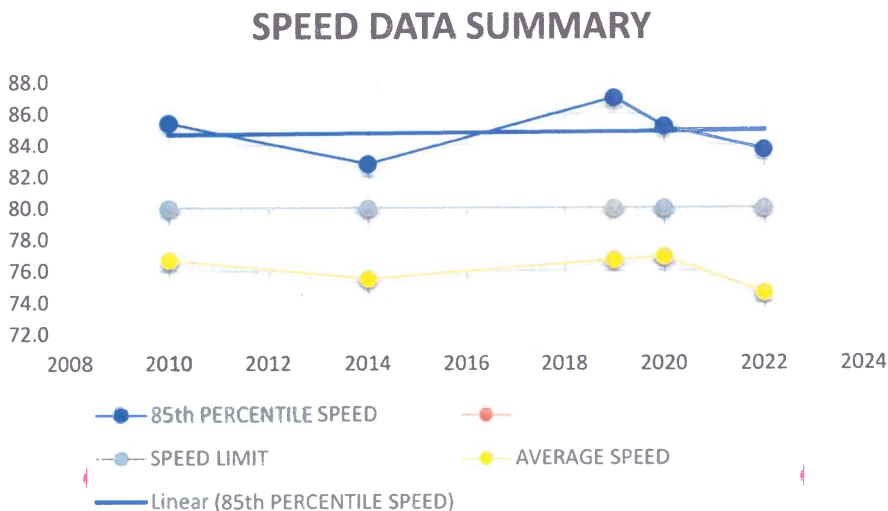
Including the two intersecting roadways the access development rate of the section is 20.0/km. There does not appear to have been significant development along the Rte 337 study corridor since the last review.

A five-year collision history for the area of study for the period between 2017-2022 indicated a total of three reported collisions. Two were rear-end collisions (at different locations) and the third was an animal strike (deer). The database does not indicate any reported collisions within the area of study thus far in 2023. As the Department does not calculate collision rates it is not possible to compare the collision frequency on this section of Route 337 to similar roadways across the province. However, based on the collision data there does not appear to be a recognizable issue with respect to collision frequency, type, or location within the study area.

The Municipality of the County of Antigonish does not have pedestrian facilities (sidewalk) adjacent to Route 337 within the area of study. Although the Municipality is continuing to work on the development of their active transportation/pedestrian plan it does not currently include accommodation along the Rte 337 corridor to/from the Town of Antigonish.

Given the speed information collected during previous reviews and the radar samples collected over the last few years there is a considerable amount of speed data available. The most recent data captured at three locations within the section (total sample size of 3026 vehicles) indicated an overall 85th percentile speed of 83.7 km/h, a 16 km/h pace of 65-81 km/h and average speed of 74.6 km/h. A sample collected in June 2020 (1930 vehicles) indicated an 85th percentile speed of 85.2 km/h, 16 km/h pace of 70-86 km/h and an average speed of 76.9 km/h. A 2019 sample indicated an 85th percentile speed of 87.0 km/h. 85th percentile speeds from the 2014 and 2011 reviews were 82.8 km/h and 85.4 km/h respectively with the 16 km/h paces being 68-84 km/h and 72-88 km/h. Prevailing vehicle speeds appear to have remained generally consistent over time and represent a relatively good level of compliance with the existing speed limit (Figure 1).

Figure 1



Since the last speed study, the Mount Cameron Estates subdivision has seen continued development including single family residential dwellings, apartments and retirement living accommodations. It is assumed that the project build-out has been generally consistent with the development plan outlined in the 2008 traffic impact study (TIS) completed for the Mount Cameron Estates subdivision development which examined the twenty-year period between 2008-2028. Although, it has been observed that the proposed "middle road" has not been developed. The traffic growth projections of the TIS have proven to be reasonably consistent with actual growth. There have been no indications from DPW Area staff, or the Municipality of the County of Antigonish, that the subdivision build-out has resulted in a reduction in the level of service, access concerns, or other demonstrable traffic related issues on Route 337. This appears to be consistent with the Level of Service Analysis of the TIS which noted that there would not be any significant impact on the level of performance of Rte 337 at full site build-out.

Since the 2014 speed review Shannex Incorporated has built Parkland Antigonish near the site of the former Bethany Motherhouse. Access to the site is located outside of the area of study, marginally south of the beginning of the 50 km/h zone. No indication was found that a traffic impact study was prepared for DPW with respect potential issues on Route 337 due to this development. However, collision statistics and nearby operating speeds do not appear to indicate that the development has had any negative demonstrable affect.

Conclusion

It has been determined that a reduction in the existing posted speed limit of 80 km/h on this portion of Route 337 does not appear to be warranted at this time. As detailed above this decision is supported by the following factors: a.) prevailing vehicle speeds indicate a reasonable level of compliance with the existing 80 km/h limit and have been relatively consistent over time, which includes the build-out of Mount Cameron Estates development; b.) the section exhibits a low collision frequency and there is no indication of speed related collisions; c.) the physical characteristics of the roadway are good; d.) the limited change in development along Rte 337 since the previous review; e.) operational conditions of the Mount Cameron Circle intersections appear to be consistent with the projections of the TIS indicating that the build out of the Mount Cameron Estates development would not affect the level of performance of Rte 337.



Bernie Murphy, CET
District Traffic Supervisor- Eastern
BM/

Cc: Basil Pitts, AM Antigonish

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

TO: MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
FROM: Deputy Warden Bill MacFarlane
SUBJECT: **November 28 Asset Management Committee Report**
DATE: December 12, 2023

The Asset Management Committee was convened on Tuesday, November 28, 2023.
The following Councillors were present:

Acting Deputy Warden MacFarlane, Chair
Warden McCarron
Councillor MacDonald
Councillor MacLellan
Councillor Stewart
Councillor Brophy
Councillor Deveau
Councillor Dunbar
Councillor Mattie
Councillor McNamara

No recommendations were made.

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

TO: MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
FROM: Glenn Horne, CAO
SUBJECT: **NOVEMBER 28, 2023 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT**
DATE: December 12, 2023

The Committee of the Whole was convened on Tuesday, November 28, 2023. The following Councillors were present:

Warden McCarron
Acting Deputy Warden MacFarlane
Councillor MacLellan
Councillor MacDonald
Councillor Stewart
Councillor Brophy
Councillor Deveau
Councillor Dunbar
Councillor Mattie
Councillor McNamara

The following recommendations were made:

The Committee recommends that Councillor Bill MacFarlane be elected to the position of Deputy Warden for the remainder of the 2020-2024 council term.

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves taking Scenario 1, 10 Districts with Minimum Variance and Scenario 3, 10 Districts with Minimum Change, forward to the second phase of public consultation for the Boundary Review, subject to further refinement to incorporate the suggestions of the Committee.

The Committee recommends to Municipal Council that the Municipality of the County of Antigonish Opt-In to the provincial Extended Producer Responsibility for paper, packaging, and packaging-like products program.

The Committee recommends to Municipal Council that letters of congratulations be sent to recently elected Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation Chief and Council.

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

TO: MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
FROM: WARDEN OWEN MCCARRON
SUBJECT: **NOVEMBER 29 JOINT COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**
DATE: December 12, 2023

The Joint Council Advisory Committee was convened at 6:00pm on Wednesday November 29, 2023, at the Town of Antigonish Council Chambers. The following members were present:

Warden Owen McCarron
Deputy Warden Bill MacFarlane
Councillor Mary MacLellan
Councillor Donnie MacDonald
Councillor Hugh Stewart
Councillor Shawn Brophy
Councillor Remi Deveau
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Harris McNamara

Mayor Laurie Boucher
Deputy Mayor Willie Cormier
Councillor Andrew Murray
Councillor Mary Farrell
Councillor Donnie MacInnis
Councillor Sean Cameron

No recommendation were made.

The following items were discussed:

- Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton and Warden Amanda Mombourquette provided a presentation on behalf of the Strait of Canso Offshore Wind Taskforce.
- Staff provided a presentation regarding a Recreation Facility Feasibility Study RFP.

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

TO: MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
FROM: Deputy Warden Bill MacFarlane, Chair
SUBJECT: **Asset Management Committee e-Poll Report**
DATE: December 11, 2023

An e-Poll was issued on December 7, 2023 regarding an application to the Municipal Capital Growth Program. The following councillors participated:

Warden McCarron
Deputy Warden MacFarlane
Councillor Stewart
Councillor MacLellan
Councillor MacDonald
Councillor Brophy
Councillor Deveau
Councillor Dunbar
Councillor Mattie
Councillor McNamara

The following recommendation was made:

The Asst Management Committee recommends to Municipal Council that an application be made to the Municipal Capital Growth Program to support the Antigonish County Priority Housing Water & Sewer project.