MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF

COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, April 8, 2025, 7:30pm

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

- 1. Call to Order Chair Nicholas MacInnis
- 2. Approval of Agenda
- 3. Approval of March 11, 2025 Municipal Council Minutes
- 4. Business Arising from the Minutes
- 5. Statutory Public Hearing
 - a. For the consideration of a **Development Agreement** application by Island Construction & Environmental Limited to construct a Gas Station with a Convenience Store and Restaurant on Lot 9, PID10140010, Beech Hill Road, Beech Hill, Antigonish County.
- 6. Correspondence
 - a. Minister of NS Department of Public Works, Cost Sharing Program for the Paving of J-Class Road, March 27, 2025
- 7. Committee Reports
 - a. March 25, 2025 Asset Management Committee Report
 - b. March 25, 2025 Committee of the Whole Report
 - c. April 8, 2025 Committee of the Whole Report
- 8. Reports from Individual Council Members on Outside Boards, Conferences, and Community Activities
- 9. Motions
- 10. Miscellaneous Business
- 11. In-Camera Items
 - a. Legal Matters Eligible for Solicitor-Client Privilege
- 12.Adjournment

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF

Municipal Council Meeting- Minutes

Tuesday March 11, 2025 Following the Committee of the Whole Meeting Council Chambers Municipal Administration Building 285 Beech Hill Road Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

Councillors Present: Warden Nicholas MacInnis Deputy Warden John Dunbar Councillor Mary MacLellan Councillor Richelle MacLaughlin

Councillor Shawn Brophy Councillor Wayne Melanson Councillor Gary Mattie Councillor Harris McNamara Councillor Sterling Garvie

Regrets: Councillor Adam Baden-Clay

Staff Present: Shirlyn Donovan, CAO Megan MacInnis, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator

Others Present: Gallery (in person and by Zoom)

Matt Draper, XFM Bailey Randle, Antigonish Rivers Association Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk Tammy Feltmate, Director of Sustainable Communities

Allison White, Antigonish Rivers Association Fenn Martin, Antigonish Culture Alive Cassie MacDonald, Antigonish Culture Alive

Call to Order- Warden MacInnis

Warden MacInnis called the meeting to order at 7:39pm

Approval of Agenda

Warden MacInnis called for approval of the Council meeting agenda. Ms. Schumacher asked to add the approval of the February 11, 2025 Municipal Council minutes to the agenda.

Min # 2025-035 Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Approval of the February 26, 2025 Municipal Council Minutes

Warden MacInnis called for any errors or omissions in the minutes of February 26, 2025, included in the agenda package. Hearing none, the minutes were considered approved.

Approval of the February 11, 2025 Municipal Council Minutes

Warden MacInnis called for any errors or omissions in the minutes of February 11, 2025, which was distributed at the meeting. Hearing none, the minutes were considered approved.

Business Arising from the Minutes

An update was requested regarding the motion that was deferred at the February 11, 2025 meeting. Warden MacInnis provided an update noting that he and Mrs. Donovan did meet with the representatives from AROYH as committed, and legal advice regarding the requested motion is still pending.

Delegations

Antigonish Culture Alive

Mr. Martin presented on behalf of the Antigonish Culture Alive (ACA) organization, to provide an overview of the group and introduce Cassie MacDonald, who is their new administrator. Ms. MacDonald provided a summary of their partner groups, the services provided by ACA, and some of the annual programs that happen in the community.

Antigonight Art After Dark Festival and the Mural Programs with the Town and County of Antigonish were both highlighted. Plans for upcoming community partnerships were reviewed, and upcoming community fundraising events were highlighted. Ms. MacDonald noted that ACA would be making an application to the Community Partnership Grant program.

The floor was opened for questions from Councillors, and many offered words of thanks and support to the group for what they do in the community. A question was

asked about whether there was a community movement to look at developing an art centre in the community. Warden MacInnis thanked the representatives from Antigonish Culture Alive for their presentation.

Antigonish Rivers Association

Ms. White and Mr. Randle provided Council with an overview of the operations of the Antigonish Rivers Association (ARA), and reviewed their funding sources in the community, including fundraising initiatives and collaboration with local communities including the Town and St. FX University. The environmental initiatives undertaken by ARA was reviewed, and the economic potential of the local rivers was highlighted. Details regarding several restoration projects were provided, and community outreach programs, including the development of barrier-free infrastructure, were discussed.

The floor was turned over to Council for questions and comments. Questions were asked regarding how to direct public enquiries about the local rivers, and comments of support for the initiatives being undertaken by ARA were expressed, specifically the accessible infrastructure developed at Cameron Lake. Warden MacInnis thanked the presenters for their time.

Correspondence

Council of Regional Librarians – Request to Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage

Mrs. Donovan reviewed the correspondence received from the Council of Regional Librarians and noted that at this time the letter was being shared for awareness. The Council of Regional Librarians has identified a budget shortfall and has reached out to the province for emergency bridge funding. Further updates will be provided when more information is received from Council of Regional Librarians or the province.

Members of Council expressed their concern with the potential for cuts to programming or staffing at the local library branch. A suggestion was made to send a letter of support for the request of emergency funding for the libraries, outlining what services the facility provides to the community.

Min # 2025-036

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council sends a letter to the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage to express their support for the Council of Regional Librarians' request for emergency bridge funding.

Motion Carried

Havre Boucher Community Fridge Thank-you Letter

Representatives from the Havre Boucher Community Fridge sent a thank-you letter to the Municipality to acknowledge the contribution made to the community fridge from Councillor McNamara's Special District Grant.

Letter from Hon. John Lohr – Minimum Planning Requirements – Wind Regulations

Mrs. Donovan reviewed the correspondence from Minister Lohr and summarized the potential impact of the changes to regulations outlines in the letter relative to the Municipality's Wind Turbine regulations. Questions were asked regarding enforcement of the regulations proposed by the province, communication of requirements with the public, lifespans of infrastructure, and the location of turbines in protected areas. Discussion followed. Staff noted that the next step will be to update the Municipality's Wind Turbine By-law.

Committee Reports

February 26, 2025 Asset Management Committee Report

Min # 2025-037

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approve adding a sidewalk along the east side of the Church Street Extension from Trunk 4 to the new R.K. MacDonald Nursing Home Facility to the municipality's capital plan.

Motion Carried

February 26, 2025 Committee of the Whole Report

Min # 2025-038

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council utilizes the results of the first phase of the 2023/24 boundary review and proceeds with ten districts for the second phase of the review.

Motion Carried

Min # 2025-039

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approve a sponsorship for the 2025 Football Canada Cup & Eastern Regional Challenge in the amount of \$5,000.

Motion Carried

March 3, 2025 Planning Advisory Committee Report

Min # 2025-040

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council gives First Reading and set a Statutory Public Hearing regarding entering into a Development Agreement to construct a Gas Station with a Convenience Store and Restaurant on Lot 9, PID 10140010, Beech Hill Road, Beech Hill, Antigonish County.

and,

That the Development Agreement be amended to include a clause to require that the sidewalk adjacent to the proposed building meet any accessibility requirements and be kept free of any obstructions.

Motion Carried

Min # 2025-041

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approve the application to demolish the Rectory at St. Margaret's of Scotland Church in Arisaig.

Motion Carried

March 11, 2025 Committee of the Whole Report

Min # 2025-042

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves leasing a five-acre section of PID 10073716 to the Antigonish Area Fire & Rescue Training Centre Committee for a term of ten years, for the creation of the Training Centre, and allow the Antigonish Area Fire & Rescue Training Centre Committee to mark out and clearcut this section of land by the end of March utilizing ACOA funds.

Motion Carried

Min # 2025-043

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council sends a letter to Minister Thompson, Minister Morrow, Minister Tilley, Premier Tim Houston and NSFM regarding their concerns over Bill 24.

Motion Carried

Min # 2025-044

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council appoint the following SPCA staff members as By-law Enforcement Officers for the Municipality of the County of Antigonish for the

purpose of enforcing the By-law Respecting the Responsible Ownership of Dogs: Jillian Videnova, Haley Doyle, and Earl Lattie.

Motion Carried

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

- Deputy Warden Dunbar noted that from February 11-13 he attended the FCM Sustainable Communities Conference in Fredericton with the Municipality's Director of Sustainable Communities, Tammy Feltmate. He also shared that the Arena Board met on Tuesday, March 4th, where Antigonish Minor Hockey presented a cheque for \$25,000 to the Arena Board. Minor Hockey also donated new nets to the Antigonish Arena, and the old nets were donated to the Heatherton outdoor rink.
- Councillor MacLellan provided an update from the ACALA Board, which met earlier in the month and are working on a strategic plan. A request was made to add this committee to the list of committees noted during the Committee of the Whole meetings.
- Councillor Brophy attended a Board meeting for the Heritage Museum, where some human resources issues were discussed and an update was provided regarding the Peace by Chocolate building project.
- Councillor McNamara gave an update from the R.K. MacDonald regarding budget exercises. The plan is to have shovels in the ground for the new building in April. Councillor McNamara also provided an update regarding his involvement on the EDPC Personnel Committee.
- Councillor Garvie provided an update from the Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management regarding extended producer responsibility and upcoming scholarships.
- Warden MacInnis provided an update from the Physician Navigator Committee regarding staffing and a possible committee name change under consideration.

Motions

Purple Day Proclamation

Min # 2025-045

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approve the resolution proclaiming March 26, 2025 as Purple Day for Epilepsy Awareness in Antigonish County.

Motion Carried



Miscellaneous Business

Ms. MacInnis provided members of Council with an update on the success of the Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser in the community, and shared the thank-you received by the County's team for their involvement in the fundraising initiative.

Mrs. Donovan shared that applications for summer jobs with the Recreation Department were advertised online today. Members of Council were asked to share the posting in their communities.

Councillor Garvie asked if a letter could be sent to the Department of Public Works to address a concerning pothole in front of 27 Beech Hill Road.

Adjournment

Min # 2025-046 Moved

That the Council meeting adjourns at 9:03 pm.

Motion Carried

Warden Nicholas MacInnis

Shirlyn Donovan, CAO

To: Antigonish County Planning Advisory Committee

Antigonish County Council

From: Planning Staff (EDPC)

Date: March 03, 2025

Reference: File No. AT-DA2025-002; Application to enter into a Development Agreement to construct a Gas Station with a Convenience Store and Restaurant on Lot 9, PID 10140010, Beech Hill Road, Beech Hill, Antigonish County

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommend that the Antigonish County Planning Advisory Committee forward the following recommendations: That Municipal Council approve the Municipality entering into a Development Agreement to construct a Gas Station with a Convenience Store and Restaurant on Lot 9, PID 10140010, Beech Hill Road, Beech Hill, Antigonish County; and that Municipal Council give First Reading and schedule a Public Hearing.

Description		
Designation:	Commercial	
Current Zoning:	General Commercial (C-2)	
Heritage Property:	No	
Request:	Development Agreement	
Identification No:	PID 10140010	
Total Lot Area:	2.30 Acres	
Site Visit:	January 11 th , 2025	

Background Information:

On January 1st, 2025, the Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC) received a complete application from Island Construction and Environmental Limited seeking to enter into a Development Agreement for Lot 9, PID 10140010, Beech Hill Road to construct a gas station with a convenience store and restaurant. PID 10140010 is presently owned by Ron MacGillivray Holdings Ltd.

Currently the property is designated "Commercial" and zoned as "General Commercial (C-2)" under the West River Antigonish Harbour Plan Area in the Municipality of Antigonish County. Restaurants and Convenience Stores are permitted as of right under the General Commercial (C-2) Zone and, while Automobile Service Stations are not permitted as of right, the West River Antigonish Harbour Land Use By-law permits "automobile sales in the local commercial zone subject to Policy L-3.10" by development agreement under Part 5.1 (a) of the West River Antigonish Harbour Land Use Bylaws and Policy L-3.9 of the West River Antigonish Harbour Municipal Planning Strategy.

Part 5.1 of the West River Antigonish Land Use By-Law states: "The following developments shall be permitted only by development agreement, in accordance with the Municipal Government Act

Page **1** of **10**

Staff Report

and the Municipal Planning Strategy:

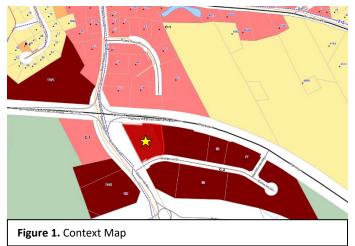
a. Automobile sales in the local commercial zone subject to Policy L-3.10"

In 2017, a Development Agreement Application by Marble Holdings Limited and John MacDonald to allow for the construction of an automatic and self-serve carwash on the subject property was made. The Development Agreement was approved by the Municipal Council but was never registered against the property.

Site Visit:

The subject property, PID 10140010, is bound by Catherine Drive, Highway 4 and Beech Hill Road (Figure 1). PID 10140010 is located immediately across from 124 Beech Hill Road (Shell Gas Station, Needs Convenience and Tim Horton's) and runs east up the grade (Figure 2).

The site has a notable western facing slope towards the east end of the property seen in Figure 3. At the bottom of the property parallel with Beech Hill Road is a large



existing wetland and marsh area (Figure 3). According to the survey plan the property rises from the marsh at approximately 11.0 metres to a height of 19.0 metres.

The lot has been cleared, leveled and sloped with gravel and fill resulting in no vegetation nor natural buffering from adjacent properties. In the time that the land was originally altered, some

areas of the lot have naturally grassed over especially along the back slope and is currently vacant as shown in Figure 4.

The only abutting property is also owned by Ron MacGillivray Holdings Ltd. and zoned as General Commercial (C-2). Both properties are part of the same Commercial Business Park (East Gate Ridge). All adjacent properties along Catherine Drive are also zoned as General Commercial (C-2) and part of the same



East Gate Ridge Commercial Business Park. Properties across the street, directly fronting on Beech Hill Road are zoned as General Commercial (C-2) (Shell Gas Station, Needs Convenience and Tim

Page 2 of 10

Horton's) and Local Commercial (C-1). North of the Highway 4 and Beech Hill Road Intersection virtually all properties are zoned as Local Commercial (C-1). The zoning of these properties reflects the Generalized Future Land Use Map that this area is predominately commercial.

Some of the commercial land uses in the area include but are not limited to a personal pharmacy, service uses, professional offices, automobile sales and repair, gas station with convenience store restaurant. and and retail. Most commercial buildings in the neighbourhood are one storey. Staff are of the opinion that there will be minimal impact on abutting properties since the scale and type of developments in the area are similar.

Additionally, the proposed development is generally in line with the Statements of Provincial Interest (SPI).



Figure 3. Photo of Site from Google Streetview (July 2024)



Analysis:

Development Agreements allow a municipality to review and consider a development proposal for certain uses that are not otherwise permitted by the Land Use By-law. A development agreement is a legal contract that is negotiated between the Municipality and the applicant. The agreement is registered and runs with the title of the land. Subsequent owners of the property are bound by the terms of the development agreement.

Policy L-3.9 of the West River Antigonish Harbour Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) sets out that:

"It shall be the policy of Council to consider approval of automobile sales and automobile service stations within the General Commercial (C-2) Zone according to the development agreement provisions of the Municipal Government Act. In considering such an agreement, Council shall have regard to the following: ..."

As such, the proposed use proceeds by way of the development agreement approval process.

The Developer, as per section "2.5 Cost, Expenses, Liabilities, and Obligations" of the

Page **3** of **10**

Staff Report

Development agreement, is liable and obligated to meet all Federal, Provincial, and Municipal laws, by-laws, regulations, and codes applicable to the Property. This includes the fire protection requirements of the Municipality and the National Building Code. These requirements shall be met prior to the issuance of a building permit.

Policy L-3.9 and Policy I-1.12 of the West River Antigonish Harbour Municipal Planning Strategy set out criteria to which Council shall have regard to in its consideration of a development agreement. Please refer to Appendix A for a summary of Policy L-3.9 and Policy I-1.12.

Municipal Council is required to consider whether the proposal is premature or inappropriate by reason of Policy I-1.12 (b) i) the financial capability of the Municipality to absorb any costs relating to the development, ii) the adequacy of sewer and water services to support the proposed development, iii) the adequacy and proximity of school, recreation and other community facilities, iv) adequacy of road networks adjacent to, or leading to the development and v) the potential for the contamination of watercourses or the creation of erosion and sedimentation. Staff solicited input on the proposal for Policy I.1.12 i) the financial capability of the Municipality to absorb any costs relating to the development, ii) the adequacy of sewer and water services to support the proposed development, and iv) adequacy of road networks adjacent to, or leading to the development.

The property has frontage on "Catherine Drive" which is a municipally owned road. On January 10, 2025, Staff received comment from the Antigonish County Department of Public Works. The Municipal Department of Public Works has stated the road network adjacent to or leading to the proposed development is adequate and does not require any upgrades due to the development.

The property also has frontage on "Highway 4" and "Beech Hill Road" which are provincially owned roads. On January 20, 2025, Staff received comment from the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works. The Nova Scotia Department of Public Works has stated that they currently do not have any concerns regarding the road network adjacent to or leading to the proposed development. A Working Right-of-Way Permit will be required prior to any construction activities and at that time, the Department can offer further comments on the offset from the Beech Hill Road intersection, adequacy of proposed accessing and parking facilities.

Based on the comment(s) received, the proposal satisfies the criteria for Policy I.1.12 (b) iv) adequacy of road networks adjacent to or leading to the development.

Policy I.1.12 (b) ii) refers to the adequacy of sewer and water services to support the proposed development. Staff obtained comment on January 10, 2025, from the Antigonish County Department of Public Works. The Municipal Department of Public Works stated that municipal sewer and water services were adequate to support the proposed development and that no upgrades are required due to the development. The proposal therefore complies with Policy I.1.12 (b) ii.

On January 28, 2025, Staff received input from the Municipality of Antigonish County's Department of finance regarding Policy I-1.12 (b) i) the financial capability of the Municipality to absorb any costs relating to the development. In the official letter received, the Director of Finance confirmed that this proposal is not premature or inappropriate by reason of the financial capability of the Municipality to absorb any cost relating to the development The proposed development meets Policy I-1.12 (b) i based on the above comment received.

Regarding Policy I-1.12 (b) iii) the adequacy and proximity of school, recreation and other community facilities, the adequacy and proximity of school(s), neither the Antigonish County Recreation Department nor the Strait Regional School Board were asked to comment on this proposal as it is a commercial development.

Policy I-1.12 (b) v references the potential for the contamination of watercourses or the creation of erosion and sedimentation. The Developer will be required to follow the Erosion and Sedimentation Control section of the Development Agreement. In accordance with Policy I.1.12 (d) An erosion and sedimentation control plan prepared by a qualified individual or company and (e) A storm water management plan prepared by a qualified individual or company, there are provisions within the Development Agreement requiring these plans before a Development Permit can be granted. For these reasons the proposal complies with Policy I-1.12 (b) v.

Policy I.1.12 (c) Whether the development has potential for damage to or destruction of historical buildings and sites, is not applicable to this development. Since the proposal complies with all of Policy I.1.12, the proposal also meets Policy L-3.9 (e), whether the proposal is consistent with the criteria for development agreements, found in Policy I-1.12.

Policy L-3.9 states Council shall have regard that (a) the proposed use meets the C-2 Zone Requirements; (b) The height, bulk lot coverage, use, and appearance of any buildings are compatible with adjacent land uses; (c) consideration is given to building design and the provision of barriers, berms, fences and/or landscaping as part of the development to minimize effect on adjacent land uses; and (d) the parking and storage areas on each site are sufficient size to satisfy the needs of the particular development; that they are well designed and properly related to the building, landscaped areas and adjacent public streets.

The proposed development requires one (1) parking space for every 28 sq. m. (301 sq. ft.) of commercial floor area in accordance with the West River Antigonish Harbour Land Use By-law. Since the approximate commercial floor area for the development is 469 sq. m. a total of 17 parking spaces (after rounding up) are required. As shown on the site plan, the proposed development will provide thirty-six (36) parking spaces which more than meets the required amount. Two (2) of these parking spaces shall be barrier free.

Since the development provides more than four (4) parking spaces, the parking area must meet the "Parking Area Standards" laid out in the West River Antigonish Harbour Land Use By-law.

Staff Report

Additionally, outdoor storage area provisions, including screening policies, are laid out in the West River Antigonish Harbour Land Use By-law as well as embedded in the Development Agreement. Staff feel that for the purposes of meeting Policy L-3.9 (d), these reasons satisfy the policy.

Policy L-3.9 (c) asks that "consideration is given to building design and the provision of barriers, berms, fences and/or landscaping as part of the development to minimize effect on adjacent land uses". The West River Antigonish Harbour Land Use By-law lays out buffering requirements for commercial developments, particularly those abutting residential uses. The proposed Site Plan is assessed against any such policy prior to a recommendation from Staff. The proposed Site Plan meets all the applicable buffering requirements of the West River Antigonish Harbour Land Use By-law.

As noted in the Site Visit Section of this report, the only abutting property is also owned by Ron MacGillivray Holdings Ltd. with both properties not only zoned as General Commercial (C-2) but also as part of the same Commercial Business Park (East Gate Ridge). All adjacent properties in the vicinity are zoned as General Commercial (C-2) (Shell Gas Station, Needs Convenience and Tim Horton's) and Local Commercial (C-1). The zoning of these properties reflects the Generalized Future Land Use Map that this area is predominately commercial and commercially designated. Most, if not almost all, commercial buildings in the locality are 1 story. Staff are of the opinion that there will be minimal impact on abutting properties since the scale and type of developments in the area are similar. As evidenced above, Staff believe this the proposed development constitutes considerate and well thought building/site design which satisfies Policy L-3.9 (b).

Policy L-3.9 refers to if (a) the proposed use meets the C-2 Zone Requirements. The proposed Site Plan was assessed against the C-2 Zone Requirements, and where applicable, C-2 Zone Requirements were included in the Development Agreement. Aside from the "no parking between the front facade and street" requirement, the proposal does meet the C-2 zone requirements. Development Agreements allow for the negotiation and flexibility of terms of some policies found in the Land Use By-law in exchange for concessions from the developer or in consideration of the unique circumstances of the development. In this case, both apply. For example, while Catherine Drive is considered the front lot line as per the definition of the West *River Antigonish Harbour Land Use By-law,* the property has frontage on two other roadways that have much more traffic: Highway 4 and Beech Hill Road. There are no parking spaces between the building and these roadways. Additionally, the developer has agreed to provide an EV Charging Station. As per the West River Antigonish Harbour Municipal Planning Strategy Section 4.4.1 Preamble: "The Antigonish County Integrated Community Sustainability Plan has as one of its objectives to "Position the community to be more economically viable and environmentallysustainable by lowering dependence on fossil-fuel based energy.", which this concession helps contribute to. Thus, Staff consider Policy L-3.9 (a) is satisfied.

Page 6 of 10

Statements of Provincial Interest:

The purpose of the Statements of Provincial Interest (SPI) is to protect the common public interest and encourage sustainable development in municipalities. The SPI are policy statements adopted by the provincial government under the powers of the Municipal Government Act (MGA s.193). They are set out in Schedule "B" of the MGA and came into effect on April 1, 1999. Legislation requires that municipal planning documents are "reasonably consistent" with the SPI. As such, the following comments are offered with respect to consistency of the proposal with the SPI:

- 1. Drinking Water: The proposed development does not impact the provision of drinking water. The property is not located within a well field or an area covered by a Source Water Protection Plan.
- 2. Flood Risk Areas: Not in an identified flood risk area.
- 3. Agricultural Land: Not considered agricultural land or impacting agricultural lands.
- 4. Infrastructure: Makes use of existing municipal sewer service.
- 5. Housing: This proposed development would provide additional housing nor remove housing.

The proposed development is reasonably consistent with the Statements of Provincial Interest.

Conclusion:

Analysis of the site and proposal completed through a review of relevant policies of the Municipal Planning Strategy indicate that the draft development agreement is in keeping with the intent of policy as set by the Municipality of Antigonish County for the West River Antigonish Harbour Plan Area. After consideration, the Eastern District Planning Commission staff are advising that the Municipality enter into a development agreement to construct a Gas Station with a Convenience Store and Restaurant on Lot 9, PID 10140010, Beech Hill Road, Beech Hill, Antigonish County.

Staff Report

Proposed Motions for the Planning Advisory Committee:

Based upon the staff recommendation, the proposed motions for PAC are:

1. That the Planning Advisory Committee recommend that Municipal Council enter into a Development Agreement to construct a Gas Station with a Convenience Store and Restaurant on Lot 9, PID 10140010, Beech Hill Road, Beech Hill, Antigonish County; and

That Municipal Council give First Reading and schedule a Public Hearing.

Proposed Motions for Council:

Based upon a positive recommendation from the PAC, the proposed motions for Council are:

FIRST READING AND SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING DATE:

DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT:

1. That Municipal Council give First Reading and schedule a Public Hearing regarding entering into a Development Agreement to construct a Gas Station with a Convenience Store and Restaurant on Lot 9, PID 10140010, Beech Hill Road, Beech Hill, Antigonish County.

SECOND READING AND APPROVAL:

1. That Municipal Council give Second Reading and approve entering into the Development Agreement to construct a Gas Station with a Convenience Store and Restaurant on Lot 9, PID 10140010, Beech Hill Road, Beech Hill, Antigonish County.

Appendices:

- Appendix A: Summary of Policies
- Appendix B: Proposed Development Agreement

Appendix A: Summary of Policies

Policy L-2.12

It shall be the policy of Council to consider approval of automobile sales and automobile service stations within the General Commercial (C-2) Zone according to the development agreement provisions of the Municipal Government Act. In considering such an agreement, Council shall have regard to the following:

(a) The proposed use meets the C-2	2 Zone Requirements;	Complies – See Staff Report
(b) The height, bulk lot coverage, u buildings are compatible with ac		Complies – See Staff Report
(c) Consideration is given to building of barriers, berms, fences and/or development to minimize effect	or landscaping as part of the	Complies – See Staff Report
(d) The parking and storage areas or to satisfy the needs of the partic are well designed and proper landscaped areas and adjacent proper	ular development; that they ly related to the building,	Complies – See Staff Report
(e) whether the proposal is consi development agreements, found		Complies – See Table Below

Page **9** of **10**

Policy I.1.12

... In considering Development Agreements (DA), in addition to all other criteria as set out in various policies of this planning strategy, Council shall have regard to the following matters:

 (a) Whether the proposal is in conformance with the intent of this Strategy and with the requirements of all other applicable municipal by-laws and regulations; 	Complies – See Staff Report
(b) Whether the proposal is premature or inappropriate by reason of:	
 i) the financial capability of the Municipality to absorb any costs relating to the development; 	Complies – See Staff Report
ii) the adequacy of sewer and water services to support the proposed development;	Complies – See Staff Report
iii) the adequacy and proximity of school, recreation and other community facilities;	N/A
iv) adequacy of road networks adjacent to, or leading to the development;	Complies – See Staff Report
v) the potential for the contamination of watercourses or the creation of erosion and sedimentation; and	Complies – See Staff Report
(c) Whether the development has potential for damage to or destruction of historical buildings and sites.	N/A
(d) An erosion and sedimentation control plan prepared by a qualified individual or company;	Complies – See Staff Report Provisions in DA
(e) A storm water management plan prepared by a qualified individual or company.	Complies – See Staff Report Provisions in DA

*DA: Development Agreement

*LUB : West River Antigonish Harbour Plan Area Land Use By-law

То:	Antigonish County Council
From:	Planning Staff (EDPC)
Date:	March 11, 2025
Reference:	Planning Advisory Committee Reference: File No. AT-DA2025-002; Emphasis on accessible and unobstructed sidewalks in the Development Agreement and the correct Site Plan in the Development Agreement

Recommendation:

That the Municipality of Antigonish County Council **give Second Reading and approve** entering into the Development Agreement **as revised** and attached in this Memo.

Background

Staff received an application from Island Construction and Environmental Limited on January 01, 2025, seeking to enter into a Development Agreement for the above referenced development.

The File was presented to Planning Advisory Committee on Monday, March 03, 2025. During the PAC Meeting two concerns were raised:

- 1. Planning Advisory Committee noticed the old/original proposed Site Plan was attached to the Staff Report and attached Development Agreement.
 - This was an error on the Part of Planning Staff. The correct Site Plan has been attached in the Development Agreement found in Appendix A of this Memo.
- 2. Planning Advisory Committee had concerns regarding the accessibility of the public entrances of the building as part of continued maintenance. Concerns were specifically about outdoor storage and signage impeding the accessibility of public entrances by those in wheelchairs.
 - To address these concerns, Subsection 3.6.2 was added to ensure the accessibility of the sidewalks abutting the building.

The Development Agreement attached in Appendix A contains the revisions required and requested to address the concerns that arose at the Planning Advisory Committee Meeting

Conclusion

Planning Advisory Committee therefore is recommending the Municipality of Antigonish County Council **give Second Reading and approve** entering into the Development Agreement **as revised** and attached in this Memo.

Appendix A: Development Agreement

This is to certify that the resolution to adopt this development agreement, of which this is a true copy, was passed at a duly called meeting of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Antigonish:	THIS DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT made this day of AD 2025, BETWEEN:
day of2025. Given under the hand of the Chief	Island Construction & Environmental Ltd., a body corporate, with registered offices in Halifax, the City of Halifax, Province of Nova Scotia (hereinafter called the "Developer").
Administrative Officer and under the corporate seal of the Municipality this:	OF THE FIRST PART
day of 2025.	-and-
	MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH , a body corporate, in the County of Antigonish, Province of Nova Scotia (hereinafter call the "Municipality").
Mrs. Shirlyn Donovan,	Scotta (hereinarter can the Wandparty).
Chief Administrative Officer	
	OF THE SECOND PART

WHEREAS the Developer has good title to lands known as 10140010 located on Catherine Drive, Beech Hill in the Municipality of the County of Antigonish, Nova Scotia, and which said lands (hereinafter called the "Property") are more particularly described in Schedule "A" of this Agreement; and

WHEREAS the Developer has requested permission to develop a gas station with a convenience store and restaurant by Development Agreement on the Property;

WHEREAS the Property is situated within an area designated Commercial on the Generalized Future Land Use Map of the West River Antigonish Harbour Plan Area, and General Commercial (C-2) Zone on the West River Antigonish Harbour Land Use By-law Zoning Map; and

WHEREAS Policy L-2.12 and I-1.11 (c) of the West River Antigonish Harbour Municipal Planning Strategy and Part 5.2.d. of the West River Antigonish Harbour Land Use By-law provide that the proposed use may be developed only if authorized by development agreement; and

WHEREAS the Developer has requested that the Municipality of the County of Antigonish enter into this development agreement pursuant to Section 255 of the *Municipal Government Act* so that the Developer may develop and use the Property in the manner specified;

WITNESS that in consideration of the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) now paid by the Developer to the Municipality (the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged) the request to change the use of the Property is agreed upon by the Developer and the Municipality subject to the following:

PART 1: DEFINITIONS

1.1 Words Not Defined under this Agreement

All words unless otherwise specifically defined herein shall be as defined in the *West River Antigonish Harbour Land Use By-law of the Municipality of the County of Antigonish*, as amended from time to time. If a term is not defined in this document, its customary meaning shall apply.

PART 2: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Applicability of Agreement

2.2.1 The Developer agrees that the area of the Property shown on Schedule B shall be developed and used only in accordance with and subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

2.2 Applicability of the Land Use By-law

Except as otherwise stipulated by this Agreement, the development of the Property shall comply with the West River Antigonish Harbour Land Use By-law of the Municipality of the County of Antigonish and the Land Use By-law for the Municipality of the County of Antigonish (Concerning the Regulation of Wind Turbine Development).

2.3 Applicability of Other By-laws, Statutes, and Regulations

- 2.3.1 Subject to the provisions of this Agreement, the Developer shall be bound by all By-laws and regulations of the Municipality as well as by any applicable statutes and regulations of the Province of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada;
- 2.3.2 Further to Subsection 2.3.1, the Developer shall receive any necessary approvals from the Municipal Department of Public Works with respect to access to the site prior to any development or building permits being issued;

2.4 Conflict

- 2.4.1 Where the provisions of this Agreement conflict with those of any other applicable Municipal bylaw (other than the *Subdivision* or *Land Use By-law* to the extent varied by this Agreement), or any provincial or federal statute or regulation, the higher or more stringent requirements shall prevail.
- 2.4.2 Where the written text of this Agreement conflict with information provided in the Schedules attached to this Agreement, the written text of this Agreement shall prevail.

2.5 Cost, Expenses, Liabilities, and Obligations

- 2.5.1 The Developer shall be responsible for all cost, expenses, liabilities, and obligations imposed under or incurred in order to satisfy the terms of this Agreement and all Federal, Provincial, and Municipal laws, by-laws, regulations, and codes applicable to the Property.
- 2.5.2 The Developer shall be responsible for all cost, expenses, liabilities, and obligations necessary to meet the fire protection requirements of the National Building Code.

2.6 **Provisions Severable**

The provisions of this Agreement are severable from one another and the invalidity or unenforceability of one provision shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision.

PART 3: USE OF LANDS AND DEVELOPMENT PROVISIONS

3.1 Schedules

The Developer shall develop the Property in a manner, which, in the opinion of the Development Officer, conforms to this agreement and the following Schedules attached to this Agreement.

Schedule AParcel DescriptionSchedule BSite PlanSchedule CBuilding Elevations

3.2 Future Subdivision of Land

No alterations to the Property are permitted without a substantive amendment to this Agreement except lands not occupied by uses enabled in this Agreement may be subdivided, subject to the requirements of

the Land Use By-law, the Subdivision By-law, and *Municipal Government Act* relating to the notice of intent to discharge the Agreement (for a portion of the lands).

3.3 Requirements Prior to Approval

- 3.3.1 No development permit shall be granted for the development unless:
 - a) The Developer has provided proof that all requirements of Schedule(s) B and C were complied with, except for modifications authorized in Subsections 3.4.6;
 - b) Detailed signage and lighting plans as per Section 3.5 are submitted;
 - c) Erosion and sedimentation control measures as per Section 4.2 were implemented; and
 - d) A copy of the 'Storm Water Management Plan' prepared by a qualified professional as per Section 4.3.1 is submitted.
- 3.3.2 The Developer shall not occupy or use the Property for any of the uses permitted by this Agreement unless Building and Occupancy Permits have been issued by the Municipality. No Occupancy Permit shall be issued by the Municipality unless and until the Developer has complied with all applicable provisions of this Agreement and the Land Use By-law (except to the extent that the provisions of the Land Use By-law are varied by this Agreement) and with the terms and conditions of all permits, licenses, and approvals required to be obtained by the Developer pursuant to this Agreement.

3.4 General Description of Land Use

- 3.4.1 The use of the Property permitted by this Agreement shall be a gas station with a convenience store and restaurant.
- 3.4.2 The front lot line shall be the property line with frontage on Catherine Drive.
- 3.4.3 No building shall exceed a maximum of 10.7 metres or 35 feet in height.
- 3.4.4 The minimum setbacks from the main building to the property lines are as follows:

Front Yard Setback	12.2 m (40 ft)
Side Yard Setback	6.1 m (20 ft)
Rear Yard Setback	12.2 m (40 ft)

- 3.4.5 Notwithstanding the *West River Antigonish Harbour Land Use By-law* off-street parking may be located between the front façade of a building and any street line.
- 3.4.6 The location of Building A and driveways shall be governed by Schedule B. Minor alterations to driveways that do not result in traffic circulation outside of the area subject to the development agreement shall be accepted by the Development Officer and do not require an amendment to this Agreement.

3.5 Commercial Site Lighting, Signage, Storage, Landscaping & Fencing

- 3.5.1 Lighting, signage and storage shall adhere to the requirements of the West River Antigonish Harbour Land Use By-law of the Municipality of the County of Antigonish.
- 3.5.2 The type and location of all outdoor lighting shall be designed as full cut-off with no light directed at the night sky.

- 3.5.3 The Developer shall include lighting details on the detailed plans submitted for Development Permits when submitted to the Development Officer for review to determine compliance with this Agreement.
- 3.5.4 The Developer shall provide signage details on the detailed plans submitted for Development Permits when submitted to the Development Officer for review to determine compliance with this Agreement.
- 3.5.5 The Developer shall wholly screen any and all waste bins (including but not limited to garbage and recycling bins) that are stored outside with an opaque visual barrier.
- 3.5.6 The Developer shall wholly screen the outdoor storage of any and all equipment or material that is not for sale with an opaque visual barrier.
- 3.5.7 Loading spaces/facilities shall be located at the rear of the main structure and the location of a drive thru between the loading spaces/facilities and any roadway shall constitute adequate screening/buffering.

3.6 Maintenance

- 3.6.1 The Developer shall maintain and keep in good repair all portions of the development on the Property, including but not limited to, the exterior of the building, fencing, walkways, recreational amenities, parking areas and driveways, and the maintenance of all landscaping including the replacement of damaged or dead plant stock, trimming and litter control, garbage removal, snow and ice control, and the salting of walkways and driveways.
- 3.6.2 Further to Subsection 3.6.1, the Developer shall ensure the sidewalks along the building remain unobstructed and accessible in accordance with the *Nova Scotia Accessibility Act*.

3.7 Hours of Operation

Hours of operation shall be 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

PART 4: STREETS, MUNICIPAL SERVICES, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

4.1 Off-Site Disturbance

4.1.1 Any disturbance to existing off-site infrastructure resulting from the development, including but not limited to streets, sidewalks, curbs and gutters, street trees, landscaped areas, and utilities shall be the responsibility of the Developer, and shall be reinstated, removed, replaced, or relocated by the Developer as directed by the Development Officer, in consultation with the Municipal Engineer.

4.2 Erosion and Sedimentation Control

- 4.2.1 An Erosion and Sedimentation Control plan designed for the development by a professional engineer must be prepared before and implemented during construction;
 - (a) exposed soils must be stabilized by such measures as covering soil stockpiles with hay/straw, and;
 - (b) any water pumped or drained from the excavation must have a Suspended Solid (SS) concentration below 25 mg/l (ppm) before it crosses a lot line.
- 4.2.2 During the commencement of on-site works, the Developer shall comply with the *Erosion and Sedimentation Control Handbook for Construction Sites* as prepared and revised from time to time

by Nova Scotia Environment.

4.3 Storm Water Management

- 4.3.1 The Developer shall prepare a 'Storm and Surface Water Management Plan' that is prepared by an adequately qualified professional.
- 4.3.2 All private storm water facilities shall be maintained in good order to maintain full storage capacity by the owner of the lot on which they are situated.
- 4.3.3 Where private storm systems cross multiple properties, the Developer shall provide easements in favour of the affected properties to permit the flow of storm water.

PART 5: AMENDMENTS

5.1 Non-Substantive Amendments

- 5.1.1 The following item is considered by both parties to be non-substantive and may be amended by resolution of Council:
 - a) The granting of an extension to the date of commencement or completion of construction as identified in Section 6.3 of this Agreement;
 - b) A change of use within the main building to a use permitted in the zone provided that no additions are made to the main building.

5.2 Substantive Amendments

Amendments to any matters not identified under Section 5.1 shall be deemed substantive and may only be amended in accordance with the approval requirements of the *Municipal Government Act*.

5.3 Discharge

Notwithstanding the foregoing, discharge of this Agreement is not a substantive matter and this Agreement may be discharged by Council without a public hearing.

PART 6: REGISTRATION, EFFECT OF CONVEYANCES, AND DISCHARGE

6.1 Registration

A copy of this Agreement and every amendment or discharge of this Agreement shall be recorded at the Registry of Deeds or Land Registry Office.

6.2 Subsequent Owners

- 6.2.1 This Agreement shall be binding upon the parties hereto, their heirs, successors, assigns, mortgagees, lessees, and all subsequent owners, and shall run with the Property that is the subject of this Agreement until this Agreement is discharged by Council.
- 6.2.2 Upon the transfer of title to any lot(s), the subsequent owner(s) thereof shall observe and perform the terms and conditions of this Agreement to the extent applicable to the lot(s).

6.3 Commencement of Development

6.3.1 This agreement or portions of it may be discharged at the discretion of the Municipality with or without the concurrence of the property owner if construction has not commenced within two (2)

years and/or construction has not been completed within five (5) years of the registration of the agreement.

6.3.2 For the purpose of this section, Council may consider granting an extension of the commencement or completion of development time period through a resolution under Section 5.1, if the Municipality receives a written request from the Developer at least sixty (60) calendar days prior to the expiry of the commencement of development time period.

6.4 Completion of Development

This agreement may be discharged at the discretion of the Municipality upon the completion of the project and the satisfactory fulfillment of the terms of the Agreement.

PART 7: COMPLIANCE AND RIGHTS AND REMEDIES ON DEFAULT

7.1 Enforcement

The Developer agrees that any officer appointed by the Municipality to enforce this Agreement shall be granted access onto the Property during all reasonable hours without obtaining consent of the Developer.

7.2 Failure to Comply

If the Developer fails to observe or perform any condition of this Agreement after the Municipality has given the Developer thirty (30) days written notice of the failure or default, then in each such case:

- a) The Municipality shall be entitled to apply to any court of competent jurisdiction for injunction relief including an order prohibiting the Developer from continuing such default and the Developer hereby submits to the jurisdiction of such Court and waives any defense based upon the allegation that damages would be an adequate remedy;
- b) The Municipality may enter onto the Property and perform any of the covenants contained in this Agreement or take such remedial action as is considered necessary to correct a break of the Agreement, whereupon all reasonable expenses, whether arising out of the entry onto the Property or from the performance of the covenants or remedial action, shall be a first lien on the Property and be shown on any tax certificate issued under the Assessment Act; or,
- c) The Municipality may, by resolution, discharge this Agreement whereupon this Agreement shall have no further force or effect and henceforth the development of the Property shall conform with the provisions of the Land Use By-law.

7.3 Municipal Responsibility

The Municipality does not make any representation to the Developer about the suitability of the Property for the development proposed by this Agreement. The Developer assumes all risks and must ensure that any proposed development complies with this Agreement and all other laws pertaining to the development.

7.4 Warranties by the Developer

The Developer warrants as follows:

a) The Developer has good title in fee simple to the Property or good beneficial title subject to normal financing encumbrance or is the sole holder of a Registered Interest in the Property. No other entity has an interest in the Property which would require their signature on this Agreement to validly bind the Property or Developer has obtained the approval of every other entity which has an interest in the Property whose authorization is required for the Developers to sign the Agreement to validly bind the Property.

b) The Developer has taken all steps necessary to, and it has full authority to, enter the Agreement.

7.5 Onus for Compliance on Developer

Any failure of the Municipality to insist upon a strict performance of any requirements or conditions contained in the Agreement shall not be deemed a waiver of any subsequent breach or default in the conditions or requirement contained in this Agreement.

7.6 Costs

The Developer is responsible for all costs associated with recording this Agreement in the Registry of Deeds or Land Registration Office, as applicable, and all costs of advertising for and recording any amendments.

7.7 Full Agreement

The Agreement constitutes the entire agreement and contract entered into by the Municipality and the Developer. No other agreement or representation, oral or written, shall be binding.

7.8 Interpretation

- 7.8.1 Where context requires, the singular shall include the plural, and the use of words in one gender shall include the masculine, feminine, and neutral genders as circumstances warrant;
- 7.8.2 Where the written text of this Agreement conflicts with information provided in the Schedules attached to this Agreement, the written text of this Agreement shall prevail.
- 7.8.3 References to particular sections of statutes and by-laws shall be deemed to the references to any successor legislation and by-laws even if the content has been amended, unless the context otherwise requires.

THIS AGREEMENT shall ensure to the benefit of and be binding upon the Parties hereto, their respective agents, successors, and assigns.

WITNESS that this Agreement, made in triplicate, was properly executed by the respective Parties on this _____ day of _____ 2024.

SIGNED, SEALED and DELIVERED	MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH
in the presence of) per:)))
)
Witness))
)
SIGNED, SEALED and DELIVERED in the presence of) DEVELOPER(S):)))
))
Witness) C. JOHN NEWHOOK
	DIRECTOR, ISLAND CONSTRUCTION & ENVIRONMENTAL LTD

SCHEDULE "A"

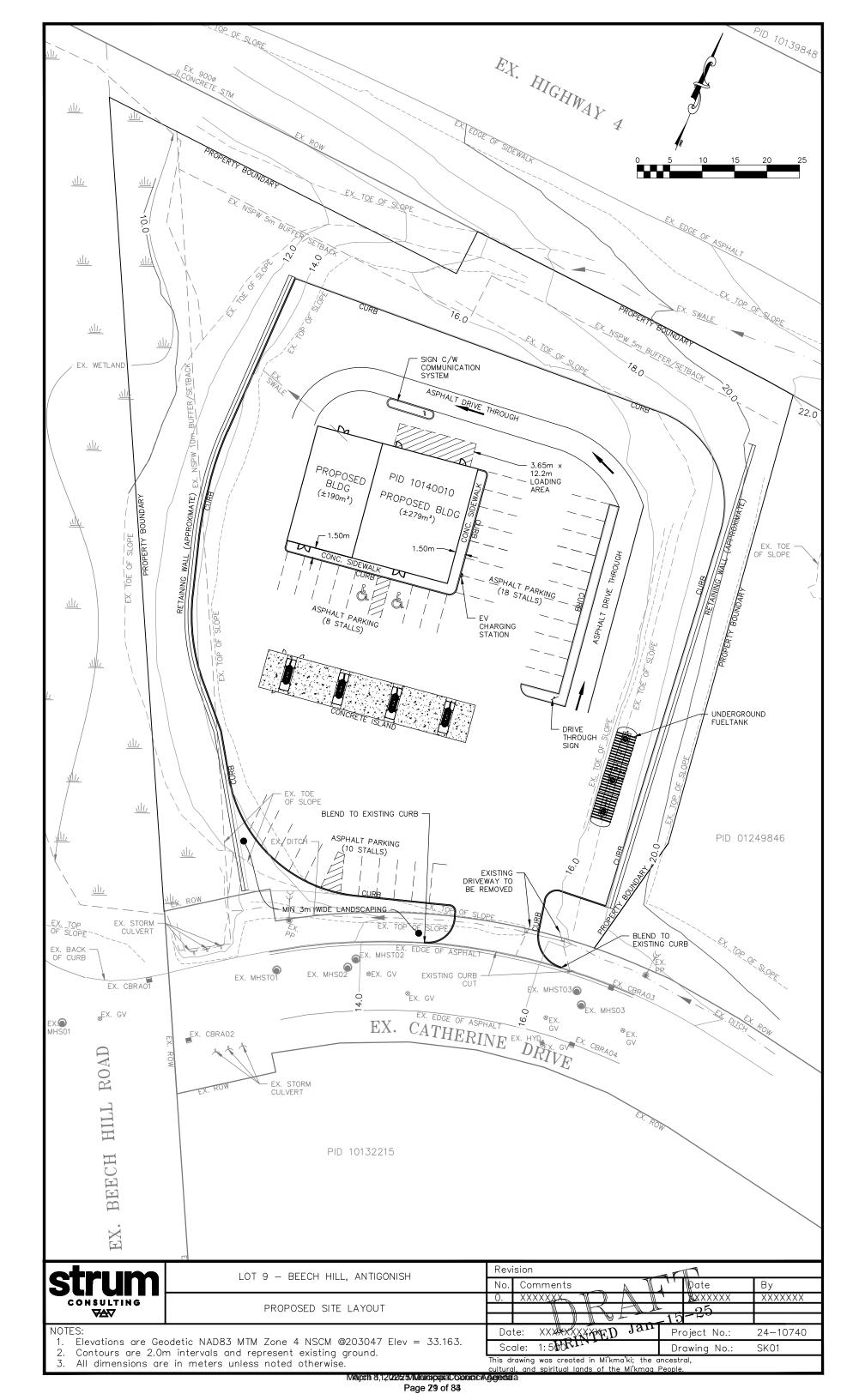
Parcel Description

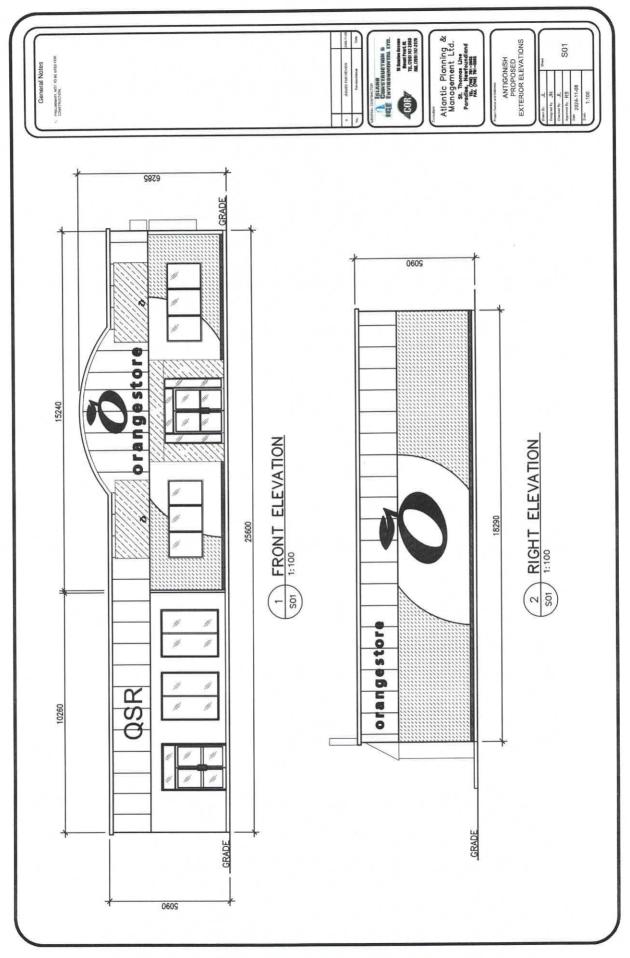
Registration County: ANTIGONISH COUNTY Street/Place Name: CATHERINE DRIVE /BEECH HILL Title of Plan: PLAN OF SUBDIVISION SHOWING LOT 9 BEING LANDS OF RON MACGILLIVRAY HOLDINGS LTD. AT CATHERINE DRIVE, BEECH HILL Designation of Parcel on Plan: LOT 9 Registration Number of Plan: 124827024 Registration Date of Plan: 2024-10-08 11:47:59

*** Municipal Government Act, Part IX Compliance ***

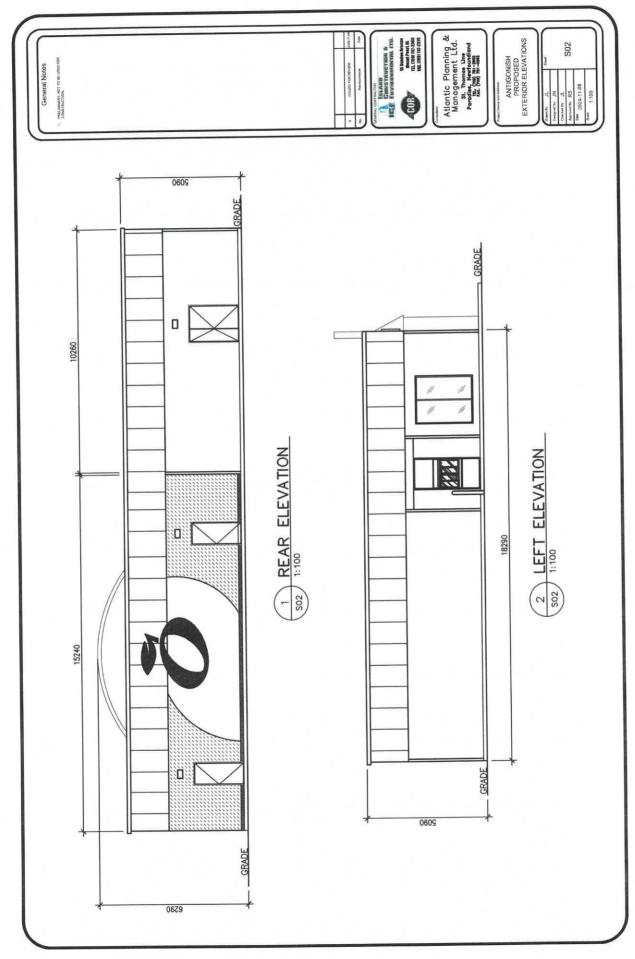
Compliance:

The parcel is created by a subdivision (details below) that has been filed under the Registry Act or registered under the Land Registration Act Registration District: ANTIGONISH COUNTY Registration Year: 2024 Plan or Document Number: 124827024





Mapch 8,12,**0202,5/Mnuicipip**laC6unuciciA**geeda**la Page 30 of 83





Public Works Office of the Minister

PO Box 186, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2N2

MAR 2 7 2025

Warden Nicholas MacInnis Municipality of the County of Antigonish 285 Beech Hill Road R.R. #6 Antigonish, NS B2G 0B4

Dear Warden MacInnis:

Re: Cost Shared Program for Paving of Subdivision (J Class) Streets for fiscal year 2025-26.

Thank you for your Municipality's submission under the Cost Shared Program for Paving of Subdivision (J Class) Streets for fiscal year 2025/26.

Due to program limits, the Department will not be able to proceed with Duncan MacIssac Road, Tamara Drive and Macken Road. The Municipality may wish to re-submit these candidates for the 2026-27 program under the terms outlined in the Cost Share Agreement.

Yours sincerely,

rele

Fred Tilley Minister of Public Works

c: Shirlyn Donovan, Chief Administrative Officer, Municipality of Antigonish Paul Colton, District Director, Eastern Andrew MacPherson, Construction Manager, Eastern Laura Cunningham, Capital Program Administration Officer



TO:MUNICIPAL COUNCILFROM:Deputy Warden John DunbarSUBJECT:March 25, 2025 Asset Management Committee ReportDATE:April 8, 2025

The Asset Management Committee was convened on Tuesday, March 25, 2025. The following Councillors were present:

Deputy Warden Dunbar, Chair Warden MacInnis Councillor MacLellan Councillor Baden-Clay Councillor Brophy Councillor Mattie Councillor McNamara Councillor Garvie

The following recommendation was made:

That the Asset Management Committee recommends that Municipal Council sell a piece of land at PID10078988 to the Provincial Department of Public Works for \$1, and that a public hearing date for this sale be set.

That the Asset Management Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves entering into an agreement with the Province of Nova Scotia and the Town of Antigonish to complete the Trunk 4 and Church Street roundabout, with a commitment of up to \$378,000 to cover two thirds (2/3) of municipal design/inspection costs and one half (1/2) of the municipal water line costs and 100% of the municipal sewer line costs.

That the Asset Management Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves the 2024-29 Capital Investment Plan as presented.



TO:MUNICIPAL COUNCILFROM:Shirlyn Donovan, CAOSUBJECT:March 25, 2025 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORTDATE:April 8, 2025

The Committee of the Whole was convened on Tuesday, March 25, 2025. The following Councillors were present:

Warden MacInnis Deputy Warden Dunbar Councillor MacLellan Councillor Baden-Clay Councillor Brophy Councillor Mattie Councillor McNamara Councillor Garvie

The following recommendations were made:

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves and endorses the *Nalikitquniejk Antigonish Equity, Anti-Hate and Anti-Racism Plan* as presented and submit the plan to the province of Nova Scotia.

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approves the installation of a streetlight at the intersection of Summerside Road and the Old Ferry Branch Road.