

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

October 1, 2007

The meeting was called to order by the Warden at 7:00 p.m., in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

- Warden Louise Halliday
 - Deputy Warden Eddie Nickerson
 - Councillor George El-Jakl
 - Councillor Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
 - Councillor Wilford Smith
 - Councillor Larry Stewart
 - Councillor Sean Strang
- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by W. Smith that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

WOOD'S HARBOUR MULTI-PURPOSE TRAIL PROJECT

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss various alternatives available for the Wood's Harbour Multi-Purpose Trail Project.

Information was previously circulated to members providing three alternatives for this project.

1. The first alternative is to construct the sidewalk portion of the project using the "rural" profile with a gravel walking surface. Instead of the walking surface being constructed of asphalt or concrete, it would remain Class "A" gravel or some similar product much like the walkway constructed across the Cape Sable Island Causeway. This type of surface is not recommended by the engineers because it lacks any type of significant sustainability. It is subject to erosion by rain and weather, especially during the winter months. It would also have to be approved by the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Public Works. It is estimated this alternative walking surface would result in a cost saving of about \$100,000.00. There would be significantly increased maintenance cost on this type of sidewalk.
2. The second alternative provided to Council was to shorten the length of the sidewalk to approximately one kilometer, and build it using the "urban" style. The sidewalk would then end at approximately Sea View Drive. This change would have to be approved by the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund. The estimated cost of construction, engineering and contingency would be \$590,000.00, plus H.S.T., which would make the total estimated cost of the project, including the multi-purpose trail, \$774,000.00.

3. The Third alternative provided was to shorten the length of the sidewalk to approximately one kilometer using a "rural" profile construction style. The estimated cost of this project would be \$425,000.00, plus H.S.T., which would make the total estimated cost of the project \$627,000.00.

Another alternative that was suggested earlier was to have the sidewalk constructed on the opposite side of the road so that it would be all along the western border of Highway #3. The engineers were asked to provide their comment on that location for the construction. The engineers were of the opinion that that alternative would likely not be feasible for the rural sidewalk. As well there are a large number of utility poles along that side of Highway 3 which are very close to the right of way as well as the road, moreso than on the eastern side. The west side is down sloped and receives the storm water from the east side. By constructing the sidewalk along that side it would disrupt the current storm water flow and would require more infrastructure to accommodate drainage. The sanitary sewer is also on that side of the road and would make construction more complicated with having to ensure that damage to the system during construction is avoided.

Also if a loop with the multipurpose trail is what is desired, constructing the sidewalk on the west side of Highway 3 would require pedestrians to cross the already busy road to get to the trail, which raises the hazard level and reduces pedestrian safety. Site lines of drivers along Highway 3 are not ideal and vehicles often travel at speeds in excess of 20 kms per hour over the speed limit through the area, and there is a risk of a lack of pedestrian visibility when crossing the road.

The option to put the sidewalk on the western side of Highway 3 could be investigated further, but based on information we have at this time, we would be required to construct an urban sidewalk along that side of the road. As such, this sidewalk would likely require a more extensive underground storm sewer system to accommodate the existing storm water coming from the east.

It is believed that the eastern side of Highway 3 is the most appropriate side to construct the sidewalk.

After reviewing these various alternatives, members of the committee who were present: Marilyn Goreham, Diane Symonds and Opal Malone, also discussed the matter with the councillors.

Councillors expressed the opinion that they are not willing to put additional municipal property taxpayers monies into this project.

It was also suggested that the location of the project could be changed so that the sidewalk is constructed between the former PROTAN property along the eastern side of Highway 3 to the Post Office Road using an urban style project. This would reduce the number of issues with private property owners in the area.

It was uncertain as to whether this would reduce the cost, or how much the cost would be reduced by constructing the sidewalk in this area, and whether or not it would be approved by the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund.

It was also uncertain whether or not a connector road could be used to complete the loop from the sidewalk in this area to the former CNR right of way.

Moved by E. Nickerson and seconded by D. Messenger that the sidewalk project be dealt with by the Wood's Harbour Sidewalk Committee, by Municipal Staff, and by the councillor for the area, and that they be authorized to complete the project at a maximum cost of \$697,711.00.

The councillor for the area will report back to Council regarding the progress of this group.

After much discussion regarding this motion, the mover and seconder agreed to withdraw it.

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by E. Nickerson that the Municipality ask the engineer to estimate the length of constructing an urban style sidewalk as far as funds would provide staying within the amount of funds available, and also to estimate the cost of constructing the sidewalk at another location in the area between the former PROTAN property and Post Office Road.

AFFIRMATIVE

George El-Jakl
Larry Stewart

NEGATIVE

Louise Halliday
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Eddie Nickerson
Wilford Smith
Sean Strang

Motion defeated.

Resolution C071001

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by W. Smith that the Municipality contact the funding partners for this project, being the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund and the Office of Recreation and Health Promotion, requesting approval for Alternative 3 to shorten the sidewalk portion of the proposal to a rural type sidewalk of one kilometer in length, and proceed with the remaining multi-purpose trail as previously designed.

AFFIRMATIVE

Louise Halliday
Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
Wilford Smith
Larry Stewart
Sean Strang

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl
Eddie Nickerson

Motion carried.

Resolution C071002

Moved by S. Strang and seconded by D. Messenger that the Municipality inform those who had previously submitted tenders on the multi-purpose trail and sidewalk portions of the project, that the project will not be proceeding as such due to the fact that the cost of the total project as previously designed exceeds the funds available.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by G. El-Jakl that the special meeting of Council be adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

_____ Warden

Secretary for the Meeting

On website October 3, 2007.