

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF ARGYLE
PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, July 30, 2009
Tusket, Nova Scotia 7:00 p.m.

Present: Warden Aldric d'Entremont; Councillors Kathy Bourque, Malcolm Madden; Committee members Dianne Crowell; Cynthia LeBlanc-Goodwin, George Emin; Senior Planner Brad Fulton; Karen Dempsey, Planner; Alain Muise CAO, Acting Property Inspection Director Lorelei Doucette and Recorder Carol LeBlanc

Regrets: Calvin d'Entremont, Guy Surette, Robert Amirault, Calvin d'Entrmeont, Alfred d'Entrmeont

The meeting is called to order at 7:05 by Chairman Aldric d'Entremont.

Agenda:

Added to agenda under other business: Letter re truck noise, West Pubnico

On motion by Kathy Bourque and seconded by Malcom Madden the agenda is approved with the addition.

Motion Carried

Approval of Minutes

It is moved by George Emin and seconded by Cynthia LeBlanc-Goodwin to approve the minutes of April 30, 2009 as circulated.

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

None

Housekeeping:

Karen Dempsey requested committee members who do not receive their information package approximately a week before the scheduled meeting, to please contact the Municipal Office Secretary.

ICSP Project Activity Report – Karen Dempsey

Ms. Dempsey outlines the activities she has undertaken and progress to date of the community planning process.

Components of ICSP Process

Phase 1 – pre-planning is complete – ICSP Committee/orientation, approval of ICSP-Process & Timeline and Create/Approve Public Participation Plan.

Phase 2 – ICSP components – The sustainability framework/principles and identifying community assets are complete. Regional collaboration with other ICSP planners makes for a sharing and sustainability initiatives available to municipalities and their community partners.

In process we are developing a community vision, prioritizing sustainability issues and challenges and developing sustainability goals and strategies.

(Report attached)

Karen Dempsey excuses herself.

Committee addresses the issue of the truck noise in West Pubnico at this time.

Brad Fulton advised the committee that he has contacted Joe Crowell, Department of Transportation and is awaiting an answer on how Council should proceed with this issue.

Sustainability Workshop for committee – Karen Dempsey

Karen Dempsey gave a power point presentation on Building A Sustainable Community – Living within Earth’s limits and means. Karen will use the Natural Step as one way of defining sustainability. The Natural Step Framework helps organizations make strategic decisions to move toward sustainability. The four-step ABCD strategic planning process helps organizations incorporate sustainability thinking and action into their daily operations and planning.

- Awareness sharing the framework
- B**aseline Analysis based on system
- C**ompelling vision of the future – Opportunities for Action
- D**own to Action

Asset Mapping Workshop results – Karen Dempsey

The whole assets approach to community planning allows community members to identify and value social, economic and physical aspects of the rural environment. The results identified the top assets as # 1 Fishery, # 2 Natural Resources, Coastline and # 3 Volunteers & Community Groups. (Report attached)

Cultural heritage, specifically Acadians was identified as an asset requiring attention by the Planning Advisory Committee. In all three Municipal units transportation was very important and we will be working as a region rather than a separate Municipality on this issue. Also noted by the three Municipalities was the valuable asset of our volunteers and difficulties committees have recruiting younger members.

Ms Dempsey noted the excellent job the Municipality of Argyle accomplished at the workshop.

Vision Statement Discussion – Karen Dempsey

Ms Dempsey asked for input from committee members to what they saw most important, unique to Argyle. The vision statement should describe the future of our Municipality. Is it sustainable? What things we should do differently? What sets Argyle apart? She will provide drafts of vision statement for the next meeting.

- Vision suggestions:
- (a) living in an Acadian community – preservation of a language & culture
 - (b) well-being – sustainability and safeguarding all societies
 - (c) looking at future – keeping our young people here
 - (d) Diversity from fishing industry – ex. green community

Work on vision statement will take place at the next Planning Advisory Committee meeting.

Business Park Amendment Discussion – Brad Fulton

Since July 2008 the Planning Advisory Committee has been discussing and developing proposed amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law to establish a Residential Park designation and Zone in the municipal owned Business Park lands.

As a measure to minimize possible conflicts between residential uses and industrial uses committee recommended that policy be adopted to require all new heavy industrial uses in Business Park Zone be required to enter into a development agreement and policy restricting home occupations in the new

Residential Park Zone from establishing in accessory buildings. Committee also encourages Council to consider reserving a public access to the Tusket River for future generations within the municipal owned lands.

Discussion: The process of adopting amendments involves the PAC holding Public Participation Meetings prior to making the formal recommendation to Council to accept the committee recommendations and hold its required Public Hearing to adopt the amendments. The public participation meeting will take place on September 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

The next Planning Advisory Committee meeting will take place on August 27, 2009 and the agenda will be the vision statement.

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 8:45 on motion by Malcolm Madden and seconded by George Emin.

Recorder
Carol LeBlanc

Date approved: _____

Chairman/Warden _____

Alain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer _____

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**Yarmouth-Argyle-Barrington
District Planning Commission**

ICSP Activity/Progress Report- December 2008-July 2009

From: Karen Dempsey, ICSP Project Planner

To: Municipality of the District of Argyle PAC

The following report details the activities undertaken by the ICSP Project Planner during the six months since being hired by the Yarmouth, Argyle, Barrington District Planning Commission and the progress to date of the community planning process as outlined in the Process and Timeline chart and the Public Participation Plan.

Since December, 2008 The ICSP Project Planner with the assistance of DPC staff, has been designing and delivering the various components of the ICSP process for the Municipality of the District of Argyle. This has specifically involved the activities and processes outlined in the generalized ICSP Process & Timeline chart and the Public Participation Plan. This report builds on these two documents previously approved by both PAC and Council.

Review of ICSP work to date. The following table summarizes both the work completed to date and work in progress.

Components of ICSP Process	Status
Phase 1-Pre-planning	
• Establish ICSP Committee /orientation	complete
• Approval of ICSP-Process & Timeline	complete
• Create/Approve Public Participation Plan	complete
Phase 2- ICSP components	
• Establish sustainability framework/principles	complete
• Identify community assets via community engagement	complete
• Develop community vision for sustainability	in process
• Develop & prioritize sustainability issues /challenges	in process
• Develop sustainability goals/strategies & MPS policies	in process

The following is a list of highlights from each phase (as identified above) of the community planning process completed to date.

PHASE 1 PRE-PLANNING

- ICSP Project Planner hired 24 November, 2009 to lead ICSP and MPS/LUB review
- In December, 2008, PAC appointed as ICSP Committee (orientation begins)
- In January PAC recommends generalized ICSP/MPS process and timeline
- In February PAC recommends Public Participation Plan, Council approves ICSP/MPS process & timeline
- In March PAC reviews Sustainability Principles, Council approves Public Participation Plan

PHASE 2 ICSP Components

- **Sustainability** definitions and **principles** explored over several meetings of PAC
- **Public consultation** begins with implementation of Public Participation Plan (targeted interviews)
- **Regional collaboration** with other ICSP planners (Shelburne Municipality and Lockeport) to conduct four "Sustainability Pillar" meetings (three held in Shelburne County the other one in Yarmouth County between January and May 2009) Coast Guard newspaper does an article on the meetings and consultations
- In April PAC explores **community assets and values** amongst the members and plans Asset Mapping workshop
- In May PAC hosts **Asset Mapping Workshop** at Par-en-bas public school.
- In July "Sustainability" workshop presented to PAC & "**Vision for a Sustainable Community**" discussed and explored

Regional Municipal Collaboration

As the ICSP Project Planner I assisted the Sustainability Co-ordinator for UNSM and the Sustainability Planner with SNSMR with the organization of a funding workshop for Municipalities held in Pubnico, Argyle Municipality in June 2009. Representatives from NS Power, Clean Nova Scotia, Conserve Nova Scotia, Eco-trust Nova Scotia, Environment

Canada, FCM, Natural Resources Canada as well as other government agencies outlined funding programs related to energy efficiency, capacity building, environmental restoration and other sustainability initiatives, available to municipalities and their community partners.

ICSP Project Planner as well as other DPC staff assisted with organization and participated in the Regional ICSP Co-ordinator's Information Sharing Workshop held in Pubnico, June 2009. ICSP Co-ordinator's from Southwestern Nova Scotia (Lunenburg County through to Digby County) have been meeting quarterly since December, 2008 to share resources and information about sustainability planning, the ICSP community planning process and the mandatory components of the ICSP.

Sustainability Education

As ICSP project planner I have given three sustainability education presentations entitled "Building Sustainable Communities". The first was presented to Barrington PAC in early June, 2009 the other to Argyle municipal staff at a lunch and learn session later that month and the third session to Yarmouth PAC in mid July.

Attended the following conferences and workshops:

February, 2009- Tri-County Food Forum, Yarmouth

March, 2009-Provincial Heritage Conference, Lunenburg, N.S.

May, 2009- Nova Scotia Planning Director's Conference, Halifax, N.S.

Preparation for and attendance at monthly PAC meetings for four municipal units (December-April) and then the remaining three municipal units (December/08-July/09) approximately thirty evening meetings in total. I also attended three evening DPC meetings over this time period.

A detailed list of all of the targeted interviews conducted as part of the approved public participation plan during this time period is attached as Appendix A.

Appendix A:

Targeted interviews conducted in Phase 1 of ICSP/MPS Review Public Participation Plan:

Trudy Ameriault, Chief Librarian Western Counties Regional Library

Frank Anderson, Southwest Shore Development Authority

Josh Purdy, Yarmouth County Youth Centre

Anna Kenney, Barrington Recreation Co-ordinator

Rachel Surrette, SWNDHA

Sharon Hopkins, SWNDHA

Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk Treasurer, Municipality of Barrington

Alain Muise, CAO Argyle Municipality

Ken Moses, CAO Yarmouth Municipality

Connie Saulnier, CAO Clare Municipality

Lorilie Doucette, Manager Property & Inspection Services, Argyle Municipality

Andrew Goreham, Assistant Building Inspector, Development Officer, Argyle Municipality

Glen Muise, Building Inspector, Fire Inspector & Development Officer, Municipality of Barrington

Emily Tipton, ICSP Co-ordinator Municipality of Shelburne

Dayle Eshelby, ICSP Co-ordinator Town of Lockeport

Ginette D'entremont, Recreation Director Municipality of Argyle

Brenda LaGrandeur., Toursim Officer, Municipality of Argyle & SWSDA

Rene Belliveau, Education Co-ordinator Waste Check

Frank Grant, Director of Leisure Services, Municipality of Yarmouth

John D'arcy, Facilities Co-ordinator, Municipality of Yarmouth

Pam Thibbeau, Community Economic Development Officer SWSDA

Ken Crosby, Deputy Warden and PAC chair, Municipality of the District of Yarmouth

Debbie Neilson, Sustainability Co-ordinator UNSM

Ridge Hiltz, Foresight Planning Services

Graham Fisher, Planner, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations

Peter Crowell, Archivist Municipality of Argyle

Warden Jean Melanson, Municipality of Clare

Arnold Commeau, Building Inspector/ Development Officer, Municipality of Clare

Cliff Drysdale, Biologist, Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association

Heather King, Federation of Agriculture Local Yarmouth County representative

Bryan Smith, Former Warden Municipality of Yarmouth

Carol Hill-Bajorski, Yarmouth Community Health Board

Greg Bennett, Editor, Coast Guard newspaper

Cathy Johnson, reporter, Coast Guard newspaper

Met with the following groups:

Yarmouth County Active Transportation Group

Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association

Woodland Trails Association

Tri-county Women's Centre

Shelburne Historical Society

Cape Sable Island Historical Society

Osprey Arts Centre

Shelburne County Women's Fish Net

Tusket River Environmental Protection Association (TREPA)

Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners Association

Bird Studies Canada

Meetings held with the following agencies, groups and government departments:

SWSDA

ACOA

NS Business Inc.

Shelburne Business Development Corporation

NS Department of Economic Development

NS Department of Fisheries

NS Department of the Environment

NS Department of Health Promotion

NS Department of Natural Resources

NS Department of Community Services

Nova Scotia Museums

Western Counties Regional Library (Chief Librarian & staff)

Roseway Hospital

Roseway Manor

NSCC Shelburne Campus

VON Shelburne County

Tri-County Housing Authority

Southwest Health, Primary Care

Planning Advisory Committee Municipality of Argyle

Community Planning Workshop: May 28, 2009

Mapping Argyle's Assets

The Whole Assets Approach

Assets are what we want to keep build upon and sustain for future generations.

The whole assets approach to community planning allows community members to identify and value social, economic and physical aspects of the rural environment. The whole assets approach includes all the possible assets that are normally found in rural areas. These assets are bundled in groups and named for the purpose of this process:

Natural assets (such as water, forests) **Built** assets (physical things that we build such as sewer systems, municipal buildings) **Social** assets (the social aspect of living in the community), **Economic** assets (jobs and a varied economy that people and communities draw upon for their livelihoods), and **Service** assets (such as health and educational services)

This workshop was based on the assumption that all Canadians should have an equal opportunity to access assets wealth. The purpose of the session was to identify assets that are important to the participants of the group. The process summarizes what is valued and what is positive and working well in the community. When people discover what they value in common, they are usually able to devise ways and means for going forward. The whole assets approach creates goodwill among participants.

Objectives:

The objectives of this session were to:

- Identify important rural assets
- Build an understanding of the group's appreciation of these assets
- Understand the supports currently in place to sustain these assets
- Identify the threats to the long term viability of these assets

Most Important Assets (Individual)

Participants were first asked to individually identify the six most important assets in their community, municipality or region and write them down on the handouts provided. The following is a compiled list of these assets. Where assets were repeated, the number of mentions is listed on the right.

Asset	Count
Fire departments and halls	7
Schools/educational institutions	8
Acadian heritage & culture	8
Community/Acadian Festivals	4
Fishery	7
Heritage buildings/museums	5
Healthcare	4
Local medical clinic	2
Community halls & centres	5
Friendly people	4
Volunteers & community organizations	4
Regional Hospital	6
Access to ocean and fresh water	4
Coastline, Tusket islands	5
wharves	4
Local climate	2
Sense of community	2
Small business	3
Tourism	2
Air & ferry service	3
Argyle Archives	
Community litter programs	
Seniors services	2
Pubnico Lake	
Geography & landscape	3
Natural Resources	4
Fishing villages	2
Wedgeport Tuna Museum	
Sewer systems	2
Centre Communautaire Par-en-bas	
Cultural diversity	2
Old bridges	
Regional co-operation	
Search & rescue	
Mariner's centre	2
Recycling programs	
Arts community/centre	2
Pubnico wind farm	2
Local newspaper & radio	
Libraries	
Churches	2
Rural lifestyle	
Recreation facilities, trails	2

Table group Assets & Dot Democracy

The table groups (4 to 5 people) were then asked to determine the top six assets from their table and categorize them under the five category headings on the work sheets on the wall. The following table reflects this list. All participants were then asked to "vote" on the most important asset in each category by placing dot stickers next to the assets (one dot per category). They were also asked to place a heart sticker next to the one asset they felt needed attention most urgently.

Asset	Category	Dots	Hearts
Fishery	Economic	19	3
Natural Resources, Coastline, waterways	Natural	18	
Regional Health Services	Service	18	4
Heritage & Historic Buildings	Built	11	3
Volunteers & Community groups	Social	14	5
Transportation Links (Air/ferry/101/103)	Built	10	
Tourism	Economic	4	
Education facilities	Service	3	1
Agriculture	Economic	1	
Arts community	Social	2	
Bilingual population	Social		
Cultural Diversity	Social	5	
Green initiatives	Service	1	
Forests	Natural		
Geography & pristine environment	Natural	3	1

Sustainability Supports and Threats

The five most important assets were then discussed in more detail. Groups were formed around each of the five most important assets by participant choice. The following questions were asked and answers were provided for each of the five assets.

Most Important Economic Asset: The Fishery

What does this asset bring to me and others in the community?

- \$- the economic backbone & engine of SWNS & our community
- Stability to the area, long standing industry
- Allows us to remain in our community

Will this asset be available for my grandchildren to enjoy in the same way that I enjoy it?

- It is questionable, given how strongly and aggressively we now fish the resource
- No community control of licenses impacts negatively on a fishing community
- Not at the rate it's going given greed, global demand, disease, pollution

What supports exist to ensure this asset is sustained for future generations?

- Limited new entries into the fishery
- Size limits, district regulations, quotas, seasonal restrictions, trap limits, mesh limits

What threats exist to the long term viability of the asset?

- Technology
- Greed and overfishing
- World demand & global economy
- Disease
- Pollution

How can we build on this asset in order to sustain and enhance it for future generations?

- Fish responsible
- Put checks on pollution

Most Important Social Asset- Volunteers & Community Groups

What does this asset bring to me and others in the community?

- Fire departments, support groups
- Protection, peace of mind
- Heart beat of the community
- Community halls and gathering places
- Community projects, events
- Training & community service

Will this asset be available for my grandchildren to enjoy in the same way that I enjoy it?

- Yes & no- dependent on population and economy
- Important to pass on to future generations these social assets

What supports exist to ensure this asset is sustained for future generations?

- Recruitment of young people
- Community driven through local government and organizations

What threats exist to the long term viability of the asset?

- Population decline
- Limited funding

How can we build on this asset in order to sustain and enhance it for future generations?

- Support from different government levels
- Honouring volunteers

Most Important Built Asset- Heritage & Historic Buildings

What does this asset bring to me and others in the community?

- Brings communities together
- Protects culture and heritage for today and the future
- Makes local heritage & culture available for the visitor
- Community museums and archives
- Heritage groups

Will this asset be available for my grandchildren to enjoy in the same way that I enjoy it?

- Not unless funding and volunteering is sustained

What supports exist to ensure this asset is sustained for future generations?

- Provincial Heritage strategy (in theory supports heritage and preservation without any funding attached)
- Municipal heritage by-laws
- Government funding (needs to continue and be increased)

What threats exist to the long term viability of the asset?

- Lack of volunteers, lack of interest
- Lack of sufficient funding(provincial)
- Less funding for maintenance of buildings
- Lack of communication for French speaking
- Age and rundown buildings

How can we build on this asset in order to sustain and enhance it for future generations?

- More government (Provincial and municipal) and local support
- Interest and involve youth
- Invite new ideas and faces

- New technology, face book groups, etc.

Most important Natural Asset- Natural resources/coastline/waterways

What does this asset bring to me and others in the community?

- Survival
- Recreational opportunities
- Natural resource based industries are the main economic driver in this region

Will this asset be available for my grandchildren to enjoy in the same way that I enjoy it?

- Fearful it will not
- Probably not, but younger generation has access to conservation education that we never had.

What supports exist to ensure this asset is sustained for future generations?

- Environmental education
- Quotas & limitations, government regulation
- Sustainable development (though it may take a new generation and 30 years to realize)
- Recycling programs

What threats exist to the sustainability of the asset?

- Clear cutting
- No regulation, no-quota,
- Unsustainable use of the resources
- No protection
- overfishing

How can we build on this asset in order to sustain it for future generations?

- Education

- Conservation
- Sustainable activities
- Government regulation to regulate packaging, bottled water, etc.
- Selective cutting
- Public stewardship

Most Important Service Asset- Regional Health Services/Hospital

What does this asset bring to me and others in the community?

- Healthcare (Regional hospital, medical clinics, nursing homes)
- Peace of mind, comfort & security
- Timely health care response
- Jobs & economic benefits
- Allows seniors to stay in community & maintain close family ties

Will this asset be available for my grandchildren to enjoy in the same way that I enjoy it?

- Should be if not better, may need additional infrastructure
- May need health promotion and healthy older people
- This service is a necessity, requires doctor/nurse recruitment and retention

What supports exist to ensure this asset is sustained for future generations?

- Current health promotion & protection initiatives
- Increased educational efforts around healthy living
- Doctor recruitment and retention initiatives
- Nurse practitioners

What threats exist to the sustainability of the asset?

- Financial -lack of government (Provincial and federal) funding
- Lack of doctors and medical facilities
- Centralization of services in HRM
- Decentralization of services to only within one hour of Halifax
- Lack of communication

How can we build on this asset in order to sustain and enhance it for future generations?

- Increase local nursing homes to address growing need for long term care
- Increase opportunities for continuing care/home care
- Reduce times spent in long term care facility, more time recovering at home with enhanced home care
- Health promotion & protection
- Chronic disease management