

Meeting Notes

New Minas Secondary Plan

2020.12.16, 7:00pm to 8:00pm

Online (Zoom)

1. Opening

2. Project Update

- » Market Demand Study is wrapping up with comments on draft sent to FBM and Turner Drake. We hope to have final document by the end of the year
- » Urban Design + Active Transportation has run into issues conducting engagement due to second wave of COVID. They will wrap up engagement early in the new year and then work on the report
- » RFP for Transportation Study closed this week. Staff are making a decision on successful proponent. The work is scheduled to start the first week of the new year
- » The Servicing Study is available for any members who wish to review it.
Action: UPLAND to share the link to download the study
- » Engagement efforts have been delayed by second wave of COVID. We will have a big engagement push early in the new year.
 - **Action:** Staff to investigate making the project more visible on Municipality's website, greater social media presence
 - People can send comments to hello@visionnewminas.ca or planningservices@countyofkings.ca
 - **Action:** UPLAND to review possibility of having comment box on project webpage
- » Some engagement events did occur this month and were quite successful, including stakeholder meeting with Friends of the Kentville Ravine and workshops hosted by WSP

- » Discussed various topics that should be added to “parking lot” of ideas to be investigated through this project:
 - Kentville Ravine
 - Neighbourhood connectivity
 - Expansion effects on Commercial St.
 - Connectivity for new development but also through retrofitting existing
 - Active living complex south of 101?
 - Beautification
 - Challenge with posts + wires
 - How can we improve the aesthetics of existing & avoid problems of the past in the new?
 - Traffic seems to have gone up since Granite Drive interchange
 - Access restrictions along commercial street
 - Neighbourhood commercial so people don't need to drive
 - Connection to trails
 - Partner with Wolfville on beautification
 - Shovel ready lands to capture development demand
 - Need to include the mobile home communities
 - Existing industrial uses + conflict with residential neighbourhoods
 - Cornwallis river
 - Clean up + bring to recreational standard
 - Add launch facilities for canoe and kayak
 - Water testing shows water is currently unsuitable for recreation
- » Also debriefed on Market Demand Study presentation from last meeting. Impressions included:
 - Excitement over focus on all of new minas rather than just expansion lands
 - “Don't sacrifice downtown”
 - Gives a good foundation for a thoughtful, methodical plan
 - Seems to lend support for other land uses (not just commercial)
 - Appreciate the holistic view
 - Industrial doesn't seem to be our game

3. Parking Lot

4. Reflection + Year Ahead

- » Big challenge has been engagement as discussed under item 2
- » Working Group meeting notes
 - Are available on municipal website
 - **Action:** UPLAND to look into adding them to project webpage
- » **Action:** Councillor Winsor to report progress to Council
- » Will recalibrate work plan at January meeting

5. 2021 Meeting Schedule

- » Desire to have a regular meeting date to give predictability to members
- » Third Monday of the month might work
- » **Action:** UPLAND to check with Jaison and Paul. If the third Monday works we will go with that; if not, UPLAND to send Doodle poll

6. Closing