

Meeting Notes

New Minas Secondary Planning Strategy (SPS)

Working Group Meeting

2021.06.21, 6:30pm to 8:00pm

Online (Zoom)

1. Opening

- » Add Guiding Principles to agenda as item 6.

2. Project Update

- » Village and Municipality met to discuss Source Water Protection Plan and having a Source Water Protection Committee (outside of Secondary Plan project scope, but related to development and has come up in Vision New Minas discussions)
- » Transportation Study is entering “Phase 2” to test the development scenarios

3. Public Workshop Plan

- » Workshop on July 7th
- » In-person, with COVID Phase 3 limits on capacity; adapted format to accommodate these restrictions
- » Series of stations, with people in smaller cohorts throughout the day
- » Online engagement in following weeks for people who can't or don't feel comfortable attending
- » Stakeholder engagement in following weeks
- » Working Group encouraged to promote event among social networks
- » Working Group invited to sign up as participants

4. Project Timeline and Milestones

- » Scott Conrod presented on Terms-of-Reference
 - Land Use Planning falls to Municipality, will be amendment to new County of Kings planning documents
 - SPS will primarily direct land use matters. Other topics are coming up too; some may be addressed through SPS, and ones that can't are being added to the “Related Topic List” on meeting notes for later follow-up
 - Working Group process includes review of materials generated by UPLAND, discussion, and then review of the Secondary Plan that arise from that discussion
 - Working Group can be heard by Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) as part of approval process
 - Municipal Council is responsible for adoption, following Public Hearing
 - Adopted documents go to Province for review versus Statements of Provincial Interest

Project Timeline and Milestones cont'd

- » Comment: Would like to see clear process in terms of back-and-forth and adoption.
 - Response: Expectation is that UPLAND would bring materials for Working Group review and comment and then move on to next task; at end of process Working Group review final documents to determine if everything is captured. UPLAND would then present draft to PAC.
- » Comment: Want to make sure Working Group role in review is meaningful.
- » Q to Scott: what do you see as best-guess timeline for approval?
 - A: End of fiscal year to align with provincial funding deadlines.
- » Q to Scott: who is PAC? Are any members on Working Group?
 - A: Planning Advisory Committee. Five members of Council, including Jim Winsor, three members of public. Councillor Winsor is only person on both.
- » Q to Scott: is there anything in the statutes that preclude the Working Group making a recommendation?
 - A: Not that we know of. Look to Working Group to provide community knowledge, and UPLAND to provide land use planning expertise.
- » UPLAND presented on project timelines and workplan
 - Provincial deadline of March, 2022.
 - Will release Summary and Scenarios report following Public Workshop
 - Comment: Would be useful to have materials like the schedule in advance of meeting.
 - Next Working Group meeting will be a big milestone in terms of reviewing engagement results and setting direction for Secondary Plan.
 - Workshop part way through plan drafting to review detailed policy issues.
 - Public draft in November, with engagement
 - In new year the Working Group will review public feedback and provide direction for any changes, which would be followed by formal adoption
 - **Action:** UPLAND to share schedule with Working Group
- » Q: Is this schedule set?
 - A: Yes, if we're aiming to make March funding deadline.

5. Development Techniques for Environmentally-sensitive Communities

- » Nick Hill presented on planning for nature in development.
 - Upland landscape is providing water services - water soaking; can we emulate that in how we build?
 - Maintain trees on slopes
 - Understand wetlands and drainage patterns; try to maintain these
 - Avoid using "hard" drains (pipes), try to use permeable landscapes
 - Slow water, rather than trying to move it away as fast as possible
 - "Daylight" the streams that have been buried in New Minas
 - Wetland restoration - funding is available
- » Q for Nick: What are bioswales and daylight streams?
 - A: Bioswales use biological landscapes to slow and soak water into the ground. Daylighting streams is opening up streams that have been buried in pipes/sewers.
- » Q for Nick: are there certain types of development that are better than others in terms of landscape effects?
 - A: Personal bias is towards residential, which makes it easier to avoid disturbing natural spaces. Also taking care in how we grade the landscape.
- » Comment: 2015 collector road study recommends further study regarding topography, watercourses, and natural habitats

6. Guiding Principles

- » Had great discussion at last workshop; UPLAND went back and used this to better organize and clarify the Guiding Principles
- » Reviewed the new Guiding Principles and made the following suggestions:
 - Include one relating to establishing and promoting neighbourhoods
 - One regarding places of historical and cultural significance
 - Promote ecological services
 - Clarify that there are opportunities for infrastructure funding to come from Province or Federal Government
 - Be clearer that this includes New Minas South
 - Clarify the preamble

7. Closing

- » Next meeting targeted for first week of August
- » Due to holiday conflict UPLAND will circulate a poll to select a new date
- » Q for UPLAND: Will the scenarios be circulated to the Working Group?
 - A: Yes, those will be part of the Summary and Scenarios Report