

Rural Municipality of Malpeque Bay  
Minutes – Public Meeting, Tuesday, August 6, 2024  
Thunder Cove Road (TCR)

Mayor Paul Brown called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Residents were welcomed to the meeting.

The Mayor introduced members of the council and the CAO as well as the PEI government officials in attendance, Stephen Yeo, J.P.Eng., Provincial Chief Engineer, Transportation and Infrastructure, Mark Sherren, P.Eng Western Regional Engineer, Transportation and Infrastructure and, Phil Gotell, Western Resident Engineer also with Transportation.

The Mayor identified the purpose of the meeting was to determine whether or not the TCR (Thunder Cove Road) should be widened from Sea Breeze Lane up to the lower Darnley Road.

Mr. Yeo gave an overview of what his department has done on the TCR to date and turned the meeting over to Mark Sherren who gave a presentation outlining the work that has been completed as well as the work that may be done depending on the outcome of the meeting.

Some residents identified they were more concerned about the amount of garbage beach goers leave behind, the lack of washrooms and the continued unsolicited marketing of Thunder Cove. Mayor Brown and Mr. Yeo both identified that the meeting was solely for the purpose of determining whether to widen the TCR. Mayor Brown encouraged residents to email the council with concerns other than the roadway issues on the agenda for this meeting.

Mr. Yeo identified that he had a meeting planned with officials from the Department of Tourism to consider items such as garbage removal and washroom availability issues at Thunder Cove and other Island public beaches.

Mr. Yeo agreed with a request to lower the speed limit to 50 kilometers and indicated that signs would be installed on that basis.

A discussion regarding the distance that the road should be widened was held. During this time, Mr. Yeo identified that if the majority of residents wanted to widen the road up to Duck Pond Lane this year that's what would be done and if it were deemed necessary in the future to continue the widening of the road up to the Lower Darnley Road that could be done in the future.

It was identified by a resident that when you Google Map Thunder Cove Beach the directions take you directly to MacKay Pond Lane and through the subdivision. Also noted was that Apple is sending users down Sea Breeze Lane. There was a request that the Province have the location of Thunder Cove Beach moved to be at the end of Thunder Cove Road, but how this could be done was not fully known. Mr. Yeo did indicate that the Province would have no official communication with either Google or Apple concerning the maps/directions that these businesses offer their users.

Mr. Yeo also agreed to consider directional signs to the beach to help limit the number of vehicles driving through the subdivision in search of the beach. (CAO McCarvill will make enquiries and report back to the Council and residents on the process for updating Google and Apple Maps).

A request for designated accessible parking/stalls/signs was made and Mr. Yeo identified that he would take this into consideration. Mr. Yeo identified that No Overnight Camping Signs had been installed and that he would install signs identifying Private Property/No Trespassing/Private Road related signs at the entrances to the private roads/lanes off Thunder Cove to restrict the public from entering the subdivisions.

A resident thanked the Province for the great work that has been done to date. The changes including creating the cul de sac and widening the road up to Sea Breeze and restricting beach access to foot traffic is making a tremendous difference to property owners in the area. There was resounding applause for this statement.

A resident identified a concern with drivers are not fully stopping at the end of the TCR. Mr. Yeo agreed to consider a request to highlight the stop sign at the end of the TCR and to upgrade the culvert at the Lower Darnley Road end of the TCR. He also indicated that he would have a safety audit conducted on the intersection to determine why vehicles may be overshooting the stop sign.

A request was made to have images of the project made available to property owners prior to the start of the project. Residents are concerned about the potential loss of vegetation (tree, shrub, branch trimming etc.). It was identified that this level of detail had not yet been put together but could be shared with the municipality at a later date.

After much discussion, a local resident, Barry Doyle, moved that the road be widened from Sea Breeze Lane up to Duck Pond Road to accommodate parking on both sides of the road and to facilitate emergency vehicles and waste watch vehicles being able to safely navigate the road.

The Mayor identified that all that was needed was a yes or no answer and it was agreed after some discussion that residents write out their answer on the cards provided and submit them for counting.

The votes as made on the cards were counted by Councillors Crosby and Simmons. The final tally was 76 residents/properties in favour of widening the road and 25 residents/properties opposed to the motion. Two votes were cast via the You Tube connection and submitted by the CAO on behalf of these residents.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Update – CAO McCarvill has taken on the request to find out how to have map/direction changes made on Google Maps and Apple.

Here is a link to the Google site to request a change to a map. People are encouraged to request the change as soon as possible. It was identified that sending in multiple requests would see quicker action. Apple is a work in progress...

<https://support.google.com/maps/answer/6194894?hl=en&co=GENIE.Platform%3DDesktop>