

Public Participation Program Policy

Purpose

To provide ample opportunity for the public to actively participate in decisions concerning the amendment of the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law.

Objectives

The objectives of the Public Participation Policy shall be to:

- ▶ Fulfill the requirements of Section 204 & 205 of the Municipal Government Act;
- ▶ Empower the public through early involvement in the planning process;
- ▶ Ensure that Council is advised of public input;
- ▶ Provide for a transparent planning process;
- ▶ Endeavour to ensure that the planning process is carried out in a timely fashion.

Policy

1.00 Amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy

1.01 In preparing amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy as well as any implementing amendment to the Land Use Bylaw, the Planning Advisory Committee shall provide for public input, by holding one or more public participation meetings.

2.00 Meetings

2.01 The purpose of the public meeting(s) shall be to provide an opportunity for the public to comment, make suggestions, discuss and receive information with respect to the Amendment of the Municipal Planning Strategy.

2.02 Members of the public may express their views, comments, and suggestions verbally or in writing so that interested persons will be given the opportunity to have their views and comments heard.

2.03 The meeting(s) shall be conducted by the Planning Advisory Committee, and the Committee shall report to Council - by way of a written report - the views of the public as expressed at the public participation meeting(s). Said report to Council shall be submitted prior to Council giving first reading of its intention to adopt an amendment to the Municipal Planning Strategy.

3.00 Notice of Meetings

3.01 Notice of any public participation meeting(s) shall be published in a newspaper circulating in the Town of Antigonish, once, at least six (6) calendar days prior to the meeting. This notice shall state the time, date, and place of the meeting and the hours during which any relevant documents pertaining to the amendment may be inspected by the public. Furthermore, a notice shall be posted in the municipal office or anywhere else the Planning Advisory Committee may direct.

Approved by Town Council December 19, 2005