



## Planning and Development Department Staff Report

*Provision of Private Road Name Signs by Municipality of East Hants*

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**File No. 16510-08**

**To:** Planning Advisory Committee, December 13, 2005  
**Cc:** Ian Glasgow, Chief Administrative Officer  
**From:** Planning and Development Department  
**Date:** December 8, 2005  
**Previous Reports:** May 25, 2004  
April 29, 2004  
**Prepared By:** John Woodford, Director of Planning and Development

### **Summary**

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Through Motion C05(476) Council directed that the issue of private road signage be brought forward. Committee and Council earlier reviewed the reports noted above. At that time it was noted that Council does have the authority to expend money on private roads.

Through the Civic Numbering By-law landowners are expected to post private road signs themselves, have it done through a local fire department or by paying the Municipality to have the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Public Works (TPW) install signage.

After reviewing this issue, Staff are recommending that the Municipality institute a program to pay for private road signage and use an existing agreement with the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Public Works (TPW) to make and install such signage.

### **Recommendation**

**PAC recommend that Council approve a program whereby the Municipality pay for signage which identifies private road names and use an existing agreement with TPW to have TPW make and install such signage based on citizen requests and priority need identified by the Municipal Civic Numbering Coordinator.**

## **Background**

The Civic Numbering By-law requires that property owners on private roads and private road right-of-ways make 'best efforts' to erect a road name sign to identify all named roads. Roads are required to be named once they have 4 civic addresses. In some cases posting of these signs is done by one or more individual property owner or area fire departments.

The Municipality also has a standing agreement with the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation & Public Works to provide private road signage. TPW charges the Municipality \$150.00 for each sign, post and installation. Property owners who want this service do so through the Municipality by making the request in writing along with a cheque for \$150.00. The Municipal Transportation Engineer then requests the sign from TPW. Currently the Municipal Transportation Engineer is attempting to formalize this agreement with TPW.

This service has obvious advantages over other methods in that the sign is of superior quality (made at the TPW sign shop in Truro), professionally installed and Staff are of the opinion that it is an excellent value.

There are an estimated 142 named private roads in East Hants that require signs.

## **Authority**

The Municipality's authority to expend money on private road signage and locate signs on private property was dealt with in an earlier report on this issue.

Essentially, after consultation with the Municipal Solicitor it was concluded that amendments to the MGA and the Municipality's own Civic Numbering By-law do give the Municipality authority to expend money on private roads and locate signs on private property, where necessary. Although practically such signs are almost always located in the TPW right-of-way.

## **Conclusion**

Although private road signs are not a mandated responsibility of the Municipality, there is clearly a public interest given the importance of road signage for emergency responders. The current practice of requiring private road landowners to post signs has worked to some extent; however, it is noted that there are many private roads which do not have signs and some that do have signs have poor quality signs that would be difficult to read or could be easily missed in an emergency situation. Staff time is also inefficiently used in ensuring full cost recovery for private road signage given the relatively low cost of these signs.

In an earlier report it was noted that the Municipality has the authority to expend money on private roads, including associated signage.

As a result, Staff conclude that a municipal program to pay for these signs while having the signs made and installed by TPW would be the most advantageous for ensuring a

consistently high standard of private road signage to facilitate emergency response and minimize staff time requirements for this function.

The Municipality currently forwards 5-10 requests to TPW per year for private road signage. However, if the program recommended below is approved, Staff will recommend budgeting for up to 20 signs in the first year at a cost of \$3000.00.

### **Recommendation**

**PAC recommend that Council approve a program whereby the Municipality pay for signage which identifies private road names and use an existing agreement with TPW to have TPW make and install such signage based on citizen requests and priority need identified by the Municipal Civic Numbering Coordinator.**