

April 1, 2022

Dear Property Owner:

The Rural Municipality of West River is creating a new Official Plan and Land Use Bylaw to help guide development and land use for the next 15 years.

Background Information

- The **Official Plan** is made up of policy statements about residential, commercial, industrial, environmental, coastal and heritage issues. The Official Plan sets out **WHAT** the community wants to accomplish.
- The **Land Use Bylaw** is the set of rules around things like lots sizes, setbacks, and permitted uses. The Land Use Bylaw is **HOW** the community accomplishes the goals set out in the Official Plan.
- The **Zoning Map** shows **WHAT** can happen **WHERE** in the community.

Current Situation

A draft Official Plan and Land Use Bylaw have been prepared based on demographic information, science and local knowledge, and GIS data and mapping which will meet the requirements of the PEI *Planning Act*. There has also been much input from the community through responses to:

- the public survey;
- participation in the three public sessions (October, January, and March);
- written submissions;
- comments on the project website; as well as
- responses to social media and website polls.

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

- 1. Council will be hosting a Public Open House on Tuesday, April 26th at the Afton Community Hall from 2-4 pm and 6:30-8:30 pm.**

This will be another opportunity for community members to learn about the latest version of the proposed documents, ask questions, and provide feedback.

Your comments and feedback are requested **no later than May 10, 2022**, and can be submitted directly to the website www.westriverpe.ca or to the municipal office (Afton Community Centre).

- 2. The Official Plan and Bylaw will be presented for another round of public comments before the documents are finalized and submitted to Council for their consideration.**

Please monitor the municipality's website and the Guardian for details.

Process to date:



Next Steps

- The community is invited to review the next draft of the Official Plan and Land Use Bylaw and the draft Zoning Map which will be available on the municipality's website by the beginning of April.
- This latest draft reflects revisions based on the feedback received to date.
- Supporting information is available to help community members understand how the documents were developed, including what we've heard and answers to questions.

Where can you learn more?

To access the draft documents or review information on this project:

www.planmwr.ca | www.westriverpe.ca | Facebook: www.facebook.com/planwestriver

If internet access is a challenge for you, please contact the municipal office for other ways to get the information.

What happens after a Plan and Bylaw are adopted?

It is important to note that the Official Plan and Bylaw will be reviewed every five years to keep the documents up to date and reflect shifting planning and community priorities. They can also be amended from time to time as needed through an application to Council and a public process that involves a public meeting.

The ongoing participation of residents and property owners is appreciated, and we look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for your continued involvement.

Sincerely,

Helen Smith-MacPhail

Mayor of Rural Municipality of West River

Sharon Slauenwhite

Chair of Planning Board