

Final series of Tantramar 2040 meetings will tackle top regional priorities

By KATIE TOWER
STAFF REPORTER

Tantramar residents are encouraged to have their say during a series of upcoming meetings that will help put the region on a path towards greater sustainability.

The steering committee for Tantramar 2040 is hosting four meetings over the next month to gain feedback from the public on how to best move forward on a number of top regional priorities.

These meetings are the final round of public consultations in a process that began early last fall, starting with a round-table workshop that brought all the parties together for a collaborative session, followed up by another workshop that helped narrow down the top issues.

"Now we need to look at developing an action plan," said Tracey Wade, co-ordinator of Tantramar 2040.

Residents can provide their input by participating in one of the four upcoming meetings that center around the chosen priorities.

The first, focusing on transportation and food, will be held this evening (Feb. 9) at 6:30

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— Tracey Wade

p.m. at the civic centre in Sackville.

The second meeting will deal with coastal issues and will be held next Tuesday, Feb. 15 at 5:30 p.m. at the Port Elgin village office.

The third meeting on energy and water will be held Feb. 24 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Ed's Community Hall in Dorchester.

The fourth, featuring talks on bioregional planning, will be held March 2 at 6:30 at the Memramcook Resort.

"These meetings will be about identifying next steps, the key players who need to be

involved, the timing and the resources required," said fellow co-ordinator Katie Friars, executive director of EOS Eco-Energy.

The meetings will also feature guest presenters or speakers who specialize in each of the topics; for example, a representative from Eastlink Shuttle will be on hand for the transportation session while a CPAWS rep will be making a presentation during the bioregional planning discussions.

"So we've looked at what are the topics, we've narrowed them down, now we need to decide what can we do to make that reality," said Wade. "Then we'll seek out key partners to try and make that happen."

Tantramar 2040 is a regional initiative that will determine how all the communities throughout the area can work together to tackle significant issues over the next 30 years. Partnering communities include the town of Sackville, and villages of Dorchester, Memramcook and Port Elgin, as well as the unincorporated areas.

Friars said the steering committee has been pleased with the engagement level of the public throughout the process and is excited about moving forward on some of the

initiatives discussed over the past few months.

If you are interested in attending any of the upcoming meetings, please contact Katie Friars at (506) 536-4487 or eos@nb.abn.com.

"We're hoping to get a lot of people back from the last sessions and hopefully some new faces too," she said.

Friars said there will also be an online discussion forum set up on the Tantramar 2040 website (www.tantramar2040.ca).

"We welcome folks to provide input through the discussion forum on any of the priority topics. Hopefully this will be another way to receive constructive comments in terms of action planning," she said.

A wrap-up session will be held sometime in March, with the sustainability plan expected to be drafted by late next month.

Wade said there will be a series of recommendations laid out in the plan and hopes the communities will begin to work towards those goals.

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Next Council Meeting

Monday, February 14th at 7:00pm

Wallace McCain Student Centre 62 York St.

TOWN OF SACKVILLE

