

Staff Report
March 22nd, 2021

KEY STRATEGIC AREAS

1. Infrastructure Renewal

a. New Recreation Centre

As mentioned last month, the Recreation Department, in partnership with our architects, launched a survey to help us get a better understanding of the use of the walking track in our new Centre. The findings were presented to Council at their March 8 Committee meeting. Following the discussion, questions relating to the design of the building were forwarded to the architects. Once we receive a response, it will be shared with Council in the hopes of approving a design.

b. Development of Asset Management Plan

We have received word from FCM regarding the grant we applied for in the amount of \$50,000 to complete an infrastructure assessment and implement an asset management program. That being said, until authorised by FCM and Infrastructure Canada, we are not permitted to make any public statements related to the status of the application for MAMP. Once authorised, we will make a public announcement.

c. Renewal or Expansion of Sewer System

Nothing new to report at this time.

2. Economic Growth

a. Development of Additional Business/Commercial Property

Nothing new to report at this time.

b. Reduction of Commercial Taxation

Nothing new to report at this time.

c. Improved Access to Internet

Nothing new report at this time.

3. Promotion and Support of the Tourism Industry

a. Amenities at Beaches

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Since Council's approval of the Terms of Reference of our Beach Resource Team, we have been working on finalizing members. We have been speaking with the various provincial departments that we would like to have a seat on our team, and we hope to have the remaining members finalized by next week and an initial meeting set up in the few weeks thereafter.

b. Work to Attract Accommodations

Nothing new to report at this time.

4. Provision or Support of Services for Residents of the Municipality

a. Continued Work Towards Additional Medical Services (Medical Clinic, Dialysis)

Nothing new to report at this time.

b. Develop Water Access Plan (docks, wharves, and marinas)

Nothing new to report at this time.

c. Improve Active Transportation (sidewalks, trails, boardwalks)

Nothing new to report at this time.

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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FROM FEBRUARY 22ND TO MARCH 21ST

TOPICS

Budget

The budget has been one of the main priorities in the last three months. Council has completed its review of the first draft of the operating and capital budgets and will be discussing the impacts of some amendments in the next two weeks. A final draft of the budgets will include the feedback received during these meetings and we are hopeful it will be approved at the end of April.

Tax Sale

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, our annual tax sale was done by tender this year. We accepted tenders until 2:00 p.m. AST last Friday, March 19, 2021. In the end there were 14 properties on the tax sale list, and we received a total of 115 bids on all but one property. Formal notice to the winning bidders was provided today, March 22 and the successful bidders have three full business days to pay in full. A list of the winning bids will be posted on our website in the coming days.

New Complaints Handling System

We launched our new complaints handling system on March 1. "Helpdesk" will help us streamline the complaint process through a cloud-based app which will allow the public to submit complaints online. A public page that includes a form is available for residents to report problems 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from any device and location. Internally, Staff and Council will have access to an internal application (authorized access only) to manage the complaints/inquiries.

Residents can report problems by visiting our website and clicking on "Report a Problem" on our homepage or by visiting <https://helpdesk.barringtonmunicipality.com/report>.

Recreation Programming

Over the past month, the Department supported the community in a number of ways. They assisted the Barrington Curling Club with an application for funding that would allow them to replace the ice condenser unit required by the facility. They also supported the Barrington Leisure Park Association in developing their plan for the coming year and identifying funding pots available to help them in this work. Finally, they are also connecting with a class from BMHS as well as potentially partnering with the school to have community equipment available.

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The Department has been assessing options and plans for the **summer seasons** during several regional meetings. These groups are looking to lobby for increased Day Camp cohort sizes to align with education and sport in order to adequately provide room for support staff, junior leader development and more access for children and families to recreation this summer. Our current plan is to operate 2 day-camps for ages groups 5-8 and 9-12 along with a junior leader program (age 11-14) and sport activity days. We hope to hold programming at different locations throughout the municipality to make more accessible for families.

MPAL Projects for the 2021-2022 fiscal year are under development. Ideas include work on the Sherose Island Nature Trail, increasing outdoor unstructured play, enhancing the equipment loan program, and assisting in the women on water program.

The **Take The Trail Challenge** has been ongoing in the month of March. This is a punch card challenge where we put up punch cards along 8 trail sections in Shelburne County: 3 trail sections are in the Municipality of Shelburne, and 5 are in the Municipality of Barrington. We have had some punch stations taken down; however, we had many people participate. Most of our participants were 45+. As of March 16th, we had 60 punch sheets submitted.

Finally, we were fortunate to have a visit from the **Western Loop Trail Coordinator**, Tyler Perrier Ehrlich and Annapolis Valley Trails Coalition Trail Coordinator Rick Jacques to assess the Sherose Island Nature Trail. A report will be provided to the Department for consideration.

Free Low-Income Tax Program

The Shelburne County Senior Services Society began their low-income tax program on March 1. This is a free service to all low-income seniors and residents of Shelburne County that has CRA registered volunteers complete and file residents' income taxes. There will be 4 locations throughout the County. The Municipality of Barrington's location is in the Administrative Centre from March 1 – April 30 and will be available for walk-ins and drop offs on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The low-income threshold is \$35,000 for an individual, \$45,000 for a couple or \$47,500 for 3 people. For more information, interested residents can phone 1-800-656-0397. A note that all = COVID-19 rules and guidelines will be enforced, and masks must be worn at all locations.

2021-2022 Tourist Season

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Plans continue to be under development for the 2021-22 tourism season. We are working on a plan for visitor servicing this summer and how that will look given the COVID-19 restrictions and the foreseeable limited travel restrictions that will be in place. We intend to hire **Tourism Ambassadors** which will be a lot more hands on this year, putting our selected ambassadors out and about in the Municipality. It will be highly digital in nature with a strong focus on social media, photography, and video content. Our Ambassadors will showcase our community to those at home to encourage them to choose to visit us when the time is right and safe to do so. Our Tourism Ambassadors will also provide in person travel information, counselling and assist with reservation within the region and the province. These positions will begin being advertised in the next week or so.

Suzy continues to work on a marketing plan with the Municipality of Shelburne for marketing Shelburne County Tourism which will be both digital and influencer based. They will also be working closely with our stakeholders in the County to help provide opportunities for training, workshops, and better engagement.

Finally, we have been working on a new municipal map with Digital Fusion. This map will compliment the Municipality of Shelburne's map and will showcase all the things to see and do within the Municipality in a fun and friendly layout. Together, the two maps will cover the entire County.

Building Permits & By-Law Enforcement

From February 15 to March 14, 20 permits were issued with a total dollar value of \$879,000. 30 building inspections were carried out along with 53 fire inspections and 24 fire re-inspections.

One new civic number was issued this reporting period and 54 homes were visited to discuss the civic numbering by-law. One new subdivision and one preliminary plan of subdivision were received. This leaves three open subdivision files that we continue to work on. One new variance has been requested which was denied, and subsequently appealed to Council.

During this period, we received no new dangerous and unsightly complaints and have no open files and we continue to work on 3 outstanding by-law investigations.

Fire Services & Emergency Management

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There continues to be no COVID-19 related staffing issues for the fire departments, and they continue to monitor the status of their membership and communicate that information to the Fire Services Coordinator.

The EMO executive committee had a meeting to review the revised EMO Plan.

Live fire training took place this month at the container on Sherose Island. The fire departments have been very satisfied with the training facility as it meets their needs very well.

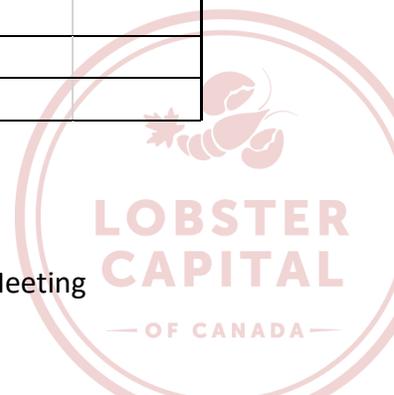
Once upcoming training sessions are held, we will have 74% of firefighters in the municipality trained to interior firefighter level and 17% trained to exterior firefighter level for a total of 91% formally trained. For comparison in 2012 the numbers were 37% and 10% for a total of 47%.

Otherwise, Dwayne has received new curriculum for officer courses and vehicle extrication and is preparing the updated curriculum for various courses, has completed yearly SCBA testing, continues to monitor Covid-19 updates from the province and EMONS, perform monthly fire and life safety inspections and prepare for upcoming training.

This February, the Fire Departments responded to 12 calls and they responded to 25 in February 2020. Here is the data for the month of February:

BARRINGTON MUNICIPAL FIRE SERVICE							
EMERGENCY CALLS February 2021							
FIRE DEPARTMENT	Fire	Mut	Auto	MFR	MVC	Other	TOTAL
		Aid	Aid				
Barrington/Port La Tour FD							
Island Barrington Passage FD	2				3	1	6
Woods Harbour/Shag Harbour FD	2					4	6
TOTALS	4				3	5	12
B/PLT -							
IBP -							
WH/SH-							

CAPITAL PROJECT UPATE



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Here is an update on our 2020-2021 Capital Projects:

Rank	Project	Status
7	Manhole Cover Repairs	Not Started
14	Former Knowles Property Sewer Lateral	Not Started
1	Recreation Centre	In Progress
2	Beach Facilities	In Progress
13	Municipal Administrative Centre Renovations	In Progress
3	Library Roof Replacement	Completed
4	Barrington Ballfield Fencing Replacement	Completed
5	Cargo Trailer Replacement	Completed
6	Brass Hill Treatment Plant Roof Replacement	Completed
8	Woods Harbour Treatment Plan Fence Replacement	Completed
9	Zero Turn Lawnmower	Completed
10	Fall's Point Road Lift Station Retrofit	Completed
11	Treatment Plant Flow Meters	Completed
12	Portable Toilets	Completed
15	Internet Improvement Project	Completed