

Staff Report  
February 28, 2022

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## KEY STRATEGIC AREAS

### 1. Infrastructure Renewal

#### *a. New Recreation Centre*

Although we did not receive an official response, it seems like the funding application for \$750,000 to the Canada Community Revitalization Fund, we were not part of the list of projects approved in Shelburne County therefore we are assuming we were not successful in that application. We are therefore still awaiting an official response to the other funding application we submitted back in July 2021 to the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program. We hope that we will receive a response soon so that we can move forward on this project – in one way, shape or form.

#### *b. Development of Asset Management Plan*

We continue our work on developing our asset management plan, implementing an asset management software, creating policy and procedure framework and training on asset management.

#### *c. Renewal or Expansion of Sewer System*

Nothing new to report at this time.

### 2. Economic Growth

#### *a. Development of Additional Business/Commercial Property*

A Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking development proposals from qualified firms or individuals for the opportunity to purchase and develop a portion of municipally owned properties along Highway 3 in Barrington Passage (PID# 80051063 and 82569138) was issued Monday, February 14. The RFP can be found at <https://procurement.novascotia.ca/tender-details.aspx?id=MODB2201> and has also been publicized through our website and Facebook page.

#### *b. Reduction of Commercial Taxation*

Nothing new to report at this time.

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*c. Improved Access to Internet*

We continue to anxiously await the completion of the remainder of the Barrington East Project and the Port La Tour project. We have been fielding inquiries relating to the Port La Tour project as its anticipated completion dates was the end of August 2021. Our contact with Bell has been providing us with updates as we've been touching base with them regularly.

As noted last month, the completion of the Port La Tour project hinges upon a grade 1 water crossing being completed by Nova Scotia Power between Port Clyde and Port La Tour Road. The last update we received from Bell is that Nova Scotia Power now has the required permit from the Department of Natural Resources and Bell is hoping they can identify the timing of the build subject to weather.

As for the remainder of the Barrington East Project, the dependencies such as grade 1 engineering assessments, tree trimming and the placement of anchors and poles mentioned last month are still to be completed.

**Promotion and Support of the Tourism Industry**

*d. Amenities at Beaches*

Nothing new to report at this time.

*e. Work to Attract Accommodations*

Nothing new to report at this time.

**3. Provision or Support of Services for Residents of the Municipality**

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

In October, the construction of a medical clinic was identified as a priority of the Municipality. This decision will ensure that it is included in our budget deliberations next year and included in our new Strategic Plan. Our first Special Committee of the Whole Meeting on this project was on December 14, 2021. At this meeting, members discussed how to manage the project, how to choose a design, and how to choose a location.

The next meeting will take place in the beginning of February. This meeting will be a brainstorming session to discuss components of the design and members will also review information gathered



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on the design and experiences of other clinics owned or operated by municipalities similar to ours.

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

Nothing new to report at this time.

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

The Sherose Island Trail evaluation project is starting the focus group interview phase which will gather detailed information about how people are using the trail. Cobequid Consulting has offered some free assessments of work we may wish to explore so we will look to them for guidance on possibilities for Sherose Island as well as possible trail/ green space development on Cape Sable Island.

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## **SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FROM JANUARY 24<sup>TH</sup> TO FEBRUARY 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2022**

### **TOPICS**

#### **Nova Scotia Lobster Crawl**

We kicked off February and the Nova Scotia Lobster Crawl on Groundhog Day, February 2 with a virtual event at the Cape Sable Island Causeway, with Lucy the Lobster seeing her shadow. Cailin O'Neil, a travel blogger and content creator hosted the morning event, with support from Donna Hatt and Stephanie Miller-Vincent. This year Lucy received a lot of attention. Brett Ruskin of CBC arrived in Barrington on January 31 to do a story about Lobster Crawl and to meet Lucy. That episode aired on February 2 to a national audience. Following our virtual event, we went live on CTV Morning Live to talk about the lobster crawl and Lucy and following that Suzy did a radio interview with Hot Country FM. On February 3, she spoke with Andrew Carter from CJAD800 in Montreal about Lucy, the Lobster Crawl and the Lobster Capital of Canada.

Cailin stayed in the area for three days creating content for Shelburne County, the Municipality and the Lobster Crawl. We partnered with the Barrington Museum Complex on a Historic Photo Scavenger Hunt, which took place this last weekend. The Tail End Party took place in Lunenburg last night and we partnered on that event to supply prizes and lobster cookies from the Lobster Capital. Given the COVID restrictions and the limited events that could take place for this year's Lobster Crawl, we feel we have kept momentum going and next year will be bigger and better.

#### **Tax Sale**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, our annual tax sale was once again done by tender this year. We accepted tenders until 2:00 p.m. AST Monday, February 14. In the end there were 15 properties on the tax sale list, and we received a number of bids on all but one property. Formal notice to the winning bidders was provided and all but one successful bidder paid in full. A list of the winning bids is posted on our website.

#### **Recreation Programming**

We have started communication with school administration and community groups so that all access to school will be free of charge to community members for physical activity and recreation. There will be some promotion to the community at large as well because it opens up facility to host birthday parties, and other active events.



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We are working to return things to “normal” and prepare for spring and summer facility use and programming. We are currently supporting the planning of an Easter Trail event by the Sherose Island Rocks crew, planning a March Break “Get Outside” challenge, starting summer staff recruiting and trying to amplify our equipment loan program.

There are already concerns regionally that aquatic staff will be difficult to recruit this summer. We are identifying ways to train and hire. This may include some promotion to bring in retired or semi-retired people to do instruction as well as change hours of when instruction is offered.

We are working more closely with the Woodland Multi-use Trail Association and NS Trails to better support their work. They have an extensive trail etiquette campaign planned for the spring and wish to have larger events on International Trails Day which falls on the first Saturday in June.

We are wrapping up a funding program project which included the trail tracker and loose parts shed. A trail tracker has been installed as of February 8 and we will provide some trail usage reports for each Recreation Advisory committee meeting to track usage. We struggled to find loose sheds this year due to pandemic and supply issues. However, we have purchased a galvanized shed that will be placed at Woods Harbour playground in the Springtime.

We continued our work on the Hike NS challenge badges. There will be 9 different locations that people will hike, including beaches and trails in all districts in Barrington.

As part of the Make Your Move Campaign, parking lot signs have been purchased and are prepared to go on Sobeys parking lot in March. There will also be radio ads, social media contest, and google ads campaign that will be launched in March. Signs were purchased by the Healthy Tomorrows Foundation to promote the campaign at the Sandy Wickens Memorial Arena and at Barrington Curling Club.

### **Building Permits & By-Law Enforcement**

From January 17, 2022, to February 20, 2022, 17 permits were issued with a total dollar value of \$1,371,000. This is a \$805,000 increase compared to the same period last year. 71 building inspections and no fire inspections were carried out.

During this period, no new civic numbers were issued. 10 households and businesses were visited during this period.



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We received 1 new subdivision application and 1 was completed and sent for registration which leaves us with 2 open subdivision files that we continue to work on.

During this period, we received 1 new complaint regarding illegal dumping. This complaint was investigated and resolved so that there are no open complaints.

Thelma received 1 new streetlight complaint while one complaint was resolved so presently there is only 1 open streetlight complaint.

1 streetlight complaint was resolved, and another was received therefore there is 1 presently open.

**Fire Services & Emergency Management**

There have been some cases of COVID-19 and close contact isolations in the fire departments, but none have caused any response issues to this point. They continue to monitor the status of their membership and communicate that information to the Fire Services Coordinator.

Otherwise, Dwayne has began a level II course with 12 students which will finish in February, continues to monitor COVID-19 updates from the province and EMONS and performed monthly fire and life safety inspections.

Last January, the Fire Departments responded to 21 calls and they responded to 8 in January 2021. Here is the data for the month of January:

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<b>BARRINGTON MUNICIPAL FIRE SERVICE</b>							
<b>EMERGENCY CALLS January 2022</b>							
<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>Fire</b>	<b>Mut</b>	<b>Auto</b>	<b>MFR</b>	<b>MVC</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
		<b>Aid</b>	<b>Aid</b>				
Barrington/Port La Tour FD	1			1	1		<b>3</b>
Island Barrington Passage FD	2				2	3	<b>7</b>
Woods Harbour/Shag Harbour FD				8		3	<b>11</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>21</b>
B/PLT - Chimney							
IBP - Electrical, chimney							
WH/SH-							



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**CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE**

Here is an update on our 2021-2022 Capital Projects:

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Status</b>
10	Bulk Water Source	Not Started
1	Landfill Truck Scale	In Progress
2	Recreation Centre	In Progress
3	Brass Hill Clarifier & Screens	In Progress
4	Property Services Building	In Progress
5	Beach Facilities	In Progress
7	Municipal Admin Office Renovations	In Progress
8	Municipal Admin Building Accessibility	In Progress
6	Internet Project	Completed
9	Arena Refrigeration Control System	Completed
11	Basil Blades Memorial Ballfield Lights	Completed
12	Lobster Pot Christmas Tree	Completed
13	Library Heat Pump	Completed

