

Staff Report
March 28, 2022

KEY STRATEGIC AREAS

1. Infrastructure Renewal

a. New Recreation Centre

We are still awaiting an official response to a funding application we submitted back in July 2021 to the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program. We reached out to them officially and received a reply indicating that “Infrastructure Canada officials are working diligently to review and assess projects for eligibility and merit under the continuous and timed intake streams.” They confirmed that our application “is under review and pending completion of the assessment process.” Unfortunately, they “cannot provide with you a precise timeline for a decision at this time.”

b. Development of Asset Management Plan

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

We are hoping to have condition assessments of our major infrastructure done in the next two months to help input this information and data as a baseline in our asset management software.

Following the completion of the draft policy and framework, we will be presenting all of the information to Council for approval.

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 on Monday, February 14 and the deadline is Thursday, April 28, 2022. 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.

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b. Reduction of Commercial Taxation

Nothing new to report at this time.

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. Our contact with Bell continues to provide us with updates as we've been touching base with them regularly.

As noted the last few months, 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. I am happy to report that the work on the crossing has begun and we hope that it will be complete this week.

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 the last few months 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 community health centre 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.

We hoped to have scheduled our next meeting in February/March but have postponed it until April to finish gathering all of the necessary information. This meeting will be a brainstorming

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session to discuss components of the design and members will also review information gathered on the design and experiences of other community health centres owned or operated by municipalities and/or communities 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)

We installed a trail tracker on February 15. We had 525 people use the trail from February 15-28. Below is the daily data. Please note that February 21 was Heritage Day which accounts for the increase in usage that day.

2022-02-15	18
2022-02-16	24
2022-02-17	6
2022-02-18	6
2022-02-19	50
2022-02-20	39
2022-02-21	191
2022-02-22	138
2022-02-23	21
2022-02-24	12
2022-02-25	2
2022-02-26	4
2022-02-27	13
2022-02-28	1

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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FROM FEBRUARY 28TH TO MARCH 27TH, 2022

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 adjustments 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.

Complaints Handling System

It has been a year since we've launched our complaints handling system. Our "Helpdesk" has helped us streamline the complaint process through a cloud-based app which allows 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.

To provide an overview of the data associated with our first year of usage, we've prepared a "2021-2022 Complaints Report", which can be viewed here: https://barringtonmunicipality-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/p/cfrotten/EbxChoA7lgtDhFnKx_nFtVMBWvArsdQtUjCwnXZTNm10w?e=DnL0kE.

A reminder that 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

A line-up of after school activities, guided hikes and try-it sessions are being planned for the Spring. This programming will have something for all ages. Dates will be available shortly and communicated through our website, social media channels and through schools.

We are partnering with Senior Safety Services to facilitate a senior's walk series from May to October as well as a Seniors Picnic celebration on June 15th at Sherose Island.

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We are working with the volunteers of Sherose Island Rocks to assist with their Easter Egg Hunt on April 16. We will have a couple fire pits with s'mores stations as well as a bouncy castle. The MOM Market is also planning an event in the Arena Parking lot that day.

Recruiting of summer staff positions is going fairly well. The deadline to receive applications is April 8 and we are currently concentrating on finding aquatic staff to ensure we have time to provide any required training upgrades.

We are working with Health Promoting Schools teams to build our relationships with each area school and support the school community. We also hope this will increase availability of community use of schools.

We are excited to be working with the Recreation Advisory Committee on recommendations for the future of Sherose Island Recreation Park. We have heard from many that there are wishes for another ball field, expanded playground, senior's areas, multi-purpose courts, trail expansions/enhancements and so on. We will look for community and stakeholder feedback on a variety of possibilities.

The "Make Your Move" campaign is on its way. there are currently radio ads that play on CJLS daily and our MPAL is coordinating with public works to place "park here" signs at Sobeys parking lot.

Building Permits & By-Law Enforcement

From February 21, 2022, to March 20, 2022, 17 permits were issued with a total dollar value of \$2,374,205. This is a \$1,495,205 increase compared to the same period last year. 42 building inspections, 10 fire inspections and 1 fire re-inspection were carried out.

During this period, no new civic numbers were issued but 11 households and businesses were visited. Dave also presented to a seniors' group on Cape Island regarding the importance of civic numbers and basic fire safety.

We received 2 new subdivision applications, so we now have 4 open subdivision files that we continue to work on.

During this period, we received no new complaints relating to illegal dumping or streetlights.

Fire Services & Emergency Management

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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.

The Barrington Port LaTour Fire Department has sold pumper #44 to Islands and District Fire Department in Argyle.

Otherwise, Dwayne has prepared and taught a strategy and tactics course, attended a regional EMO meeting in New Minas, attended a Shelburne County Mutual Aid Association meeting in Ingomar, continues to monitor COVID-19 updates from the province and EMONS and performed monthly fire and life safety inspections.

Last February, the Fire Departments responded to 23 calls, and they responded to 12 in February 2021. Here is the data for the month of February:

BARRINGTON MUNICIPAL FIRE SERVICE							
EMERGENCY CALLS February 2022							
FIRE DEPARTMENT	Fire	Mut Aid	Auto Aid	MFR	MVC	Other	TOTAL
Barrington/Port La Tour FD	2		1			1	4
Island Barrington Passage FD	1	1	1		1	5	9
Woods Harbour/Shag Harbour FD			2	4		4	10
TOTALS	3	1	4	4	1	10	23
B/PLT - vehicle fire, Possible structure fire							
IBP - Barn							
WH/SH-							



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CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE

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

Rank	Project	Status
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

