

Staff Report
April 26th, 2021

KEY STRATEGIC AREAS

1. Infrastructure Renewal

a. New Recreation Centre

At the Committee of the Whole meeting on April 12, Committee made a recommendation to Council to approve the design with the walking track on the second level including infilling a corner of the gymnasium on the main level to increase its square footage at an extra cost of approximately \$155,000.00.

If the design is in fact approved, the architects will work to finalize the design package for tender and we will turn our attention to aggressively pursuing funding programs to help offset a majority of the cost of the project. We will also organize a virtual Q&A to inform the public on the project and provide them an opportunity to ask questions.

b. Development of Asset Management Plan

As mentioned last month, 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, we still cannot make any public statements related to the status of the application for MAMP as we have not yet been authorised by FCM and Infrastructure Canada. 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

The anticipated completion date for the “Barrington East” and “Port La Tour” projects have recently been updated. The estimated completion dates are based on the best information

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available at this time and are subject to change but at this point, it seems like the “Barrington East” project will be completed by June-August 2021 and the “Port La Tour” project will be completed by May-July 2021. A reminder these are the two projects announced back in September which includes a municipal investment of \$243,925.

On a related note, it seems FibreOP is now available throughout most of Cape Island. Wilson’s posted on their Facebook page earlier this month that it is available in North East Point, Clam Point, Stoney Island, Centreville, Southside, Newellton and Lower Clark’s Harbour.

For more information on these projects, visit our dedicate webpage at <https://bit.ly/3li8Zeh> or <https://internet.developns.ca/zones/shelburne-barrington/>.

3. Promotion and Support of the Tourism Industry

a. Amenities at Beaches

Suzy is in the final stages of organizing the first meeting of the Beach Resource Team. This team will play an important role as we move forward with implementing our Beach Strategy and working together in the best interests of our beaches and those who use them.

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 MARCH 22ND TO APRIL 25TH

TOPICS

Budget

The budget has been one of the main priorities in the last few months. Council reviewed the first draft of the operating and capital budgets on March 13 and discussed adjustments on April 8. The second draft of the budgets which include the feedback received during these meetings is attached to the agenda for approval.

Tax Bills

The interim tax bills were issued April 6, 2021 and the due date is May 15, 2021. This bill represents 50% of a calculation based on the current year's taxable assessment and the last tax rate set by Council along with 50% of the previous year's sewer service charge, when applicable.

Nova Scotia Marathon

The marathon is slated to take place on July 25, 2021. There are 327 participants registered as of April 14 which is almost double the number of participants at the same time last year. The committee is determined to host an in-person event and is discussing the public health protocols related to COVID-19. They have discussed spacing out start times, and some races divided people with tape and rope. They have made the decision to cap off the sub-events at 150 for a total participation of up to 600. They will also be considering other COVID-19 scenarios and a full COVID-19 plan will be developed and be the focus of the next full committee meeting.

New Complaints Handling System

We launched our new complaints handling system two months ago. "Helpdesk" has helped us streamline our 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. After the first two months of usage, we've received and resolved 23 complaints.

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>.



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Recreation Programming

Once again, this month, the Department supported the community in a number of ways. They are assisting the Barrington Leisure Park Organization in applying for funding for a few smaller projects: a trail to connect the main route 3 to the multi-use trail, planning for a natural playground, and park signage. They are also working with staff at BMHS to look a trail project on the school site that would incorporate youth engagement and leadership as well as procuring recreation equipment for use at the school and in community. There has been a newly formed Community Garden Committee which met to plan for this year's space. The garden is at capacity so planning is happening to expand it so more residents can enjoy the space. Finally, they are meeting with local community sports organizations that use our facilities over the summer to review scheduling needs and other concerns. We are looking to continue to better connect them to provincial resources as well.

To celebrate **Volunteer Week**, the Department will be honoring community nominees with a gift from the Municipality along with certificate of recognition. These will be picked up at a pre-arranged time and we will gather pictures, video and stories from volunteers to share through social media. The Provincial Awards in which Nancy Quinlan was to be recognized was scheduled for April 26 but has since been postponed to September 20 due to the recent restrictions imposed in HRM.

The Department is receiving a lot of positive feedback about its slate of **summer events** and more details will become available by mid-May. They plan to open summer registration for all programs, events and swimming lessons on June 3. They will open the office early to accommodate working parents as well as have an online option. The **batting cages** are scheduled to open April 26.

As part of the Active Communities Fund, Joel has been looking at ways to expand **outdoor play opportunities**. He has been looking into putting up more loose parts sheds in the municipality and has been in contact with the Woods Harbour Playground group to see if they would be interested in having a loose part shed at their playground-they are interested. He has also put up an evaluation form for the current loose parts shed to have more data on the current loose parts shed.

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2021-2022 Tourist Season

The job description for the **Tourism Ambassador** position(s) are currently being advertised. We are aiming to hire two summer positions. We are getting the back entryway organized to act as a temporary VIC for this year. Our staff will be working from this area and will also be out and about through out the community, businesses and organizations, meeting visitors and residents and getting content for marketing purposes. We encourage anyone to share the position advertisement on our Visit Barrington Facebook page and encourage anyone you know who might be suitable for the position to apply.

We will be attending the **Saltscapes Virtual Expo** this year, April 30 – May 2. Val Kean of the Municipality of Shelburne and Suzy will be representing Shelburne County and our respective units during this event. This will certainly be a different atmosphere than we are used to seeing and are looking forward to speaking with potential visitors who are looking to visit Nova Scotia.

Our Property Services team has been making 6 new **Lobster Chairs** that will be put out for the 2021 season soon. We have 5 red chairs and one unique blue lobster chair. Special thanks to the businesses who came forward to sponsor a chair: Malone's Boat Repair Ltd, Capt. Kat's Lobster Shack, Smith & Watt, Barrington & Area Chamber of Commerce, Starboard Inn and Reynolds Trucking Ltd.

Two of our **Lobster Sculptures** are getting repaired this year before they will be installed, the remaining lobster sculptures will be going out over the next few weeks in their designated locations.

Plans are underway for this year's **Shelburne County Lobster Festival**. Events for this year's festival will take place both in person and virtual. Keep an eye out in the coming weeks for a list of events. If you know of any community groups/organizations and/or businesses who might be interested in hosting an event during the festival, please let Suzy know. They are aiming to have most of the events in by May 7.

Building Permits & By-Law Enforcement

From March 15 to April 18, 52 permits were issued with a total dollar value of \$3,581,300. This is a \$2,114,800 increase over last year. 73 building inspections were carried out along with 10 fire inspections and 19 fire re-inspections.

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Three new civic numbers were issued this reporting period while three others were deleted. We received two new subdivisions with one sent for registration and finalized and one preliminary plan completed. This leaves three open subdivision files that we continue to work on.

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

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.

Dwayne attended a videoconference with the other Fire Services Coordinators in the Province and another with Region 5 of EMONS.

A strategy and tactics course and incident safety officer course was held with 11 students in each course. Almost all officers now have the required training. We are working to get all officers trained to the required level.

Otherwise, Dwayne has set up a local assistant to the fire marshal course and is working on booking a traffic management course at the request of the fire departments, continues to monitor Covid-19 updates from the province and EMONS, performed monthly fire and life safety inspections and prepare for upcoming training.

This March, the Fire Departments responded to 30 calls and they responded to 26 in March 2020. Here is the data for the month of March:

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BARRINGTON MUNICIPAL FIRE SERVICE							
EMERGENCY CALLS March 2021							
FIRE DEPARTMENT	Fire	Mut	Auto	MFR	MVC	Other	TOTAL
		Aid	Aid				
Barrington/Port La Tour FD	4	1			2		7
Island Barrington Passage FD	5				3	6	14
Woods Harbour/Shag Harbour FD	6					3	9
TOTALS	15	1			5	9	30
B/PLT - 1 chimney, 3 grass/brush, 1 mutual aid							
IBP - 1 chimney, 4 grass/brush							
WH/SH- 5 grass/brush, 1 grass that caught a structure							



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CAPITAL PROJECT UPATE

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