

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Barrington Municipal Council held in the Council Chambers, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington N.S., on Monday November 22, 2021. The meeting was called to order by the Warden at 7:02 p.m., with the following members present:

- Warden Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson
- Deputy Warden Jody Crook
- Councillor George El-Jakl
- Councillor Andrea Mood-Nickerson

- Chris Frotten, CAO
- Lesa Rossetti, Municipal Clerk

- Councillor Shaun Hatfield was absent due to a medical situation.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no items added to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Being duly moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of Conflict of Interest.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Being duly moved and seconded that minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held October 25, 2021 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

REPORT OF WARDEN

The Warden gave a brief report on his activities since the last meeting of Council.

REPORT OF COUNCILLORS

The Deputy Warden and each councillor present gave a brief report on their activities since the last meeting of Council.

REPORT ON WCRL BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the Western Counties Regional Library Board Meeting held June 17, 2021, were attached to the agenda on the municipal website for information of councillors and the public.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL

Deputy Warden Crook reported on recommendations from the Committee of the Whole Council.

Letter of Support – Western REN Residential Energy Retrofits Project

Resolution C211101

Being duly moved and seconded that a Letter of Support be provided to the Western REN in support of their application for funding for their Residential Energy Retrofits Project.

Motion carried unanimously.

Port LaTour and Barrington East Internet Projects

Resolution C211102

Being duly moved and seconded that a letter be written to Bell Aliant requesting them to provide more concrete project updates and public updates be issued on a regular basis to keep the public up-to-date on progress of the Port LaTour and Barrington East internet projects.

Motion carried unanimously.

Oneka Technologies – Wave Powered Desalination

Oneka Technologies is looking for a partner for their wave-powered desalination system pilot project which provides fresh water from the ocean.

Resolution C211103

Being duly moved and seconded that the Municipality endorse Oneka Technologies Glacier Project, in principle.

Motion carried unanimously.

Request from Sou'West Nova Transit

Correspondence has been received from Sou'West Nova Transit Association advising that they are experiencing an unexpected increase in requests for long distance medical travel which has led to a significant drain on their fare subsidy resources. They are requesting municipal units to provide additional funds to benefit residents travelling for essential purposes.

Resolution C211104

Being duly moved and seconded that a grant in the amount of \$3,000.00 be provided to the Sou'West Nova Transit Association to be applied towards the cost of fares for residents of the Municipality of Barrington travelling for essential purposes.

Motion carried unanimously.

Divert NS Municipal Efficiency Funding – Letter of Interest

The Fishing Gear Coalition of Atlantic Canada has asked that we submit a Letter of Interest to Divert Nova Scotia for funding to cover the cost of their feasibility study of a Wire Trap Stockpile Removal Program in Nova Scotia. Only municipalities and waste-resource management regions in Nova Scotia are eligible to apply and that it the reason for their request.

Resolution C211105

Being duly moved and seconded that the Municipality submit the templated letter of interest to Divert NS, in support of the Fishing Gear Coalition of Atlantic Canada's feasibility study of a Wire Trap Stockpile Removal Program in Nova Scotia.

Motion carried unanimously.

NSFM Correspondence

We have been advised that service exchange programs are on the table for renegotiation.

Resolution C211106

Being duly moved and seconded that a letter be sent to NSFM requesting to know the process to be used to renegotiate service exchange programs.

Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORT

The Chief Administrative Officer provided his report for the period ending November 22, 2021 of which a copy is attached and forms part of the minutes.

Topics highlighted were as follows:

- Improved Access to Internet
- Amenities at Beaches
- Continued work Towards Additional Medical Services (Medical Clinic, Dialysis)
- Improve Active Transportation (sidewalks, trails, boardwalks)
- Christmas at the Causeway
- Lobster Pot Christmas Tree
- Municipal Awareness Week

- Recreation Programming
- Google Mapping Project
- Building Permits & By-law Enforcement
- Fire Services & Emergency Management
- Capital Project Update

NEW OR OTHER BUSINESS

Draft Virtual Meetings and Attendance Policy

A copy of the draft Virtual Meetings and Attendance Policy was circulated to members in advance of the meeting. The purpose of the policy is to provide guidelines for conducting and attending virtual or hybrid council and committee meetings.

Notice of consideration of the adoption of this policy was given at the Committee of the Whole Council Meeting on November 8, 2021.

Resolution C211107

Being duly moved and seconded that Council adopt the Virtual Meetings and Attendance Policy as presented.

AFFIRMATIVE

- Jody Crook
- Andrea Mood-Nickerson
- Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson

NEGATIVE

- George El-Jakl

Motion carried.

Proposed Amendments to Cost of Living Adjustment Policy

It is recommended that Personnel Policy No. 26 "Cost of Living Adjustment" be amended to change "National Consumer Price Index" to "Nova Scotia Consumer Price Index" in Section 2.1.

Notice of consideration of amendments to this policy was given at the Committee of the Whole Council Meeting on November 8, 2021.

Resolution C211108

Being duly moved and seconded that Council approve amendments to the Cost of Living Adjustment Policy to change "National Consumer Price Index" to Nova Scotia Consumer Price Index".

Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCEProperty Valuation Services

It was reported that correspondence has been received from Property Valuation Services Corporation advising that after careful consideration, they have decided not to renew the lease for their Tuskett Office. The office will officially close on December 1, 2021.

Fort St. Louis

Correspondence has been received from Parks Canada in response to our letter of October 14, 2021. The letter advised that due to Fort St. Louis being privately owned, it does not meet the necessary criteria for financial assistance under their Cost-Sharing Program.

During discussion of this matter it was noted that the property is now owned by the Cape Sable Historical Society and steps will be taken to access funding for improvements to the site.

Flooding of Sherose Island Road

Correspondence has been received from the Deputy Minister of Public Works in response to our letter of September 27, 2021, regarding flooding of the Sherose Island Road. He recognized the problem and advised that he would encourage staff to continue to look for opportunities to source funding to address the challenge of rising sea levels and the impact they are having on our coastal roads.

It was agreed that this matter be placed on a Committee of the Whole Council Agenda in January for further discussion.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

No items were brought forward.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Warden

Chief Administrative Officer

Secretary for the Meeting

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KEY STRATEGIC AREAS

1. Infrastructure Renewal

a. New Recreation Centre

Nothing new to report at this time.

b. Development of Asset Management Plan

Nothing new to report at this time.

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

On November 16, Develop Nova Scotia provided an update on the progress of the Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative, which includes two outstanding projects in our Municipality.

They provided an overview on the status of the projects, an update on estimated completion timelines, tips and tools, as well as answers to frequently asked questions. We know high-speed Internet can't come soon enough and they assure us that they continue to advance this project with urgency, working closely with our qualified providers and partners.

To read the update, visit <https://internet.developns.ca/files/documents/Internet-for-Nova-Scotia-Initiative-Fall-2021-Update.pdf>

For more information on the projects, visit <https://internet.developns.ca/zones/shelburne-barrington/>

3. Promotion and Support of the Tourism Industry

a. Amenities at Beaches



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We have continued meeting with our Beach Resource team and have identified beach stewardship as a key component to consider through our work on the beach strategy action items. We made great strides with the Resource team in creating partnerships and a collaborative approach to ensure we execute our plan responsibility. We have recently met with Laura Bartlett and Laura Tranquilla with Birds Canada to discuss partnering on a Beach Ambassador program. This partnership will aim to provide more resources to Birds Canada by hiring summer staff to monitor and promote better beach stewardship on our beaches. We've also reached out to Donna Hurlburt, Manager of Biodiversity, Wildlife Division, Department of Natural Resources and Renewables to discuss the creation of a Habitat Stewardship Policy for the Municipality.

Finally, we've begun to create beach information sheets for each beach which will help us move forward on applying for permits and funding to implement our strategy.

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)

Last month, 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. To maintain our momentum on this important project, we will be scheduling bi-weekly or monthly meetings. Our goal at this time will be to determine and communicate our plan of action to ensure proper direction is provided to Staff.

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

Nothing new to report at this time.

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

As mentioned last month, we were successful in our funding application for the research evaluation of the Sherose Island Nature Trail. We received \$13,479 to assist with associated costs of having researchers on site, hosting focus groups and activities and all of the reporting and recommendations for our future planning of outdoor recreation spaces. The evaluation of the trail is being conducted by a team from Dalhousie University on November 24-25. They will be



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doing some focus group activities with school aged youth, and they are also developing a community survey which we will share through all our channels when ready.

A **Trail Tracker** will be installed by the end of November to track how many people are using the Sherose Island Nature Trail.



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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FROM OCTOBER 25TH TO NOVEMBER 21ST

TOPICS

Christmas at the Causeway – Virtual Edition



In light of the continued COVID-19 restrictions on large gatherings, this year's tree lighting ceremony will once again be virtual. Those interested in participating in the event will be able to tune in Live on our Facebook pages on November 26th to watch our event.

For more information, visit the event page at <https://fb.me/e/4zy3gTfhv>.

Lobster Pot Christmas Tree

To date we have approximately 100 lobster traps donated for the tree. Unfortunately, the local lobster traps dealers/builders have seen a large increase of orders this year from local fishers, as well a shortage of supplies, which has made it difficult for them to commit to building traps for the tree. We would like to extend a huge appreciation to the builders who have built traps for those who placed orders for the tree. We have also purchased 17 used traps, have 20 traps on order and have secured some from the landfill which are in good shape. We are aiming to make the tree bigger this year and we think we can make this happen with what we have thanks to the support from the community through donations.

Municipal Awareness Week

Municipal Awareness Week 2021 starts today, November 22 and goes until the end of the week. The week promotes the importance of municipal government in people's daily lives, and encourages participation in council meetings, public hearings and committees. It also celebrates the dedicated mayors, wardens, councillors and staff who are essential to the effective governance of municipalities.

This year, celebrations were virtual and minimal due to COVID-19. Some social media posts relating to the Municipality, including some trivia will be posted on our Facebook page throughout the week.

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Recreation Programming

Due to the overwhelming success of the Halloween trail event on the Sherose Island Trail (Over 1000 people came out!), we are supporting the Sherose Island Rocks crew in the planning and facilitation of a **Christmas on the Trail** event scheduled for December 11th. The event will include S'mores over campfire, ornament creations, cookie decorating take-homes, scavenger hunt, visits with Santa and much more. Oceanview Academy is also looking to have a living Nativity on the trail either in conjunction with this event or at a different time.

Misty is sitting on a task team working on the **Community Use of Schools** agreements with the TCRC. Their next plan is to assist with the development of a policy for use of schools as well as the development of a funding program to assist community groups with applicable custodial costs.

The Department is assisting community groups with preparing for some upcoming funding applications for community recreation facilities. The **Barrington Leisure Park Association** and the **Shelburne County Fish & Game Association** will be applying to the **Recreation Facility Development Fund** in February. We recently assisted with the application to the **Rink Revitalization Program** that, if successful, will help with the cost of the refrigeration control system at the Sandy Wickens Memorial Arena. The Rink Revitalization program is a new funding program to assist arenas across the province with their infrastructure needs. This funding also relieves some pressure on the Recreation Facility Development Fund because arenas were a heavy user of that program.

The **Recreation Advisory Committee** is still in need of a few community members from Districts 1, 5 and Clark's Harbour. If anyone knows someone who is a resident of these areas and would be a good fit, they can contact the Department.

The **NS Marathon Committee** is planning the 2022 event for July 24, 2022 and is reviewing its Terms of Reference as well as the administrative tasks associated with the event.

A **Punch Card Challenge** started on November 3 and will end on December 20. There are 8 punch cards scattered throughout the Municipality, with a minimum of one punch card in each municipal district. The punch cards are an initiative to get people to walk and hike in the Municipality and discover new hiking/walking opportunities.

Google Mapping Project



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We have been working with Yarmouth & Acadian Shores to map some of our trails and roadways which currently don't have street views on Google. This will allow visitors and residents to virtually walk our trail systems, beaches, and roadways from the comfort of their home and also help to make trip planning easier. The Google Mapping project will also compliment our Show Me Map website we use to promote tourism in Shelburne County.

Building Permits & By-Law Enforcement

From October 18 to November 14, 21 permits were issued with a total dollar value of \$763,000. This is a \$3,334,500 decrease compared to the same period last year. 84 building inspections were carried out along with 15 fire inspections and 13 re-inspections.

During this period, 1 new civic number was issued, and 26 households were visited.

We received 1 new subdivision application and sent for registration which now leaves us with 1 preliminary file and 1 open subdivision file that we continue to work on.

During this period, we receive no new by-law complaints, and we have no outstanding complaints.

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.

The Level 1 training course will wrap up at the end of the month except for the fire suppression course which will take place in June. Dwayne has also completed the schedule for Level 2 training and officer courses for winter and spring.

Dwayne is assisting the Shelburne County Mutual Aid Association with drafting a new mutual aid agreement.

On the equipment front, all fire trucks pumps were tested, and the quint truck ladder received its yearly certification.

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This past month, Dwayne met with Rhonda Mathews, our outgoing EMO regional Officer and Andrew Mitton, our incoming EMO regional Officer. Last Saturday, EMO held a training tabletop session/exercise with members of the planning committee.

Otherwise, Dwayne attended several training courses, continues to monitor Covid-19 updates from the province and EMONS and performed monthly fire and life safety inspections.

This October, the fire departments responded to 20 calls, and they responded to 16 in October 2020. Here is the data for the month of October:

BARRINGTON MUNICIPAL FIRE SERVICE							
EMERGENCY CALLS October 2021							
FIRE DEPARTMENT	Fire	Mut	Auto	MFR	MVC	Other	TOTAL
		Aid	Aid				
Barrington/Port La Tour FD			1		1	1	3
Island Barrington Passage FD	2				1	2	5
Woods Harbour/Shag Harbour FD	2		1	4	1	4	12
TOTALS	4		2	4	3	7	20
B/PLT -							
IBP - Boat Fire, Electrical							
WH/SH- grass/brush fire, Debris Fire							



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CAPITAL PROJECT UPATE

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

Rank	Project	Status
5	Beach Facilities	Not Started
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
7	Municipal Admin Office Renovations	In Progress
8	Municipal Admin Building Accessibility	In Progress
12	Lobster Pot Christmas Tree	In Progress
6	Internet Project	Completed
9	Arena Refrigeration Control System	Completed
11	Basil Blades Memorial Ballfield Lights	Completed
13	Library Heat Pump	Completed

