

Staff Report
April 25, 2022

KEY STRATEGIC AREAS

1. Infrastructure Renewal

a. New Recreation Centre

We continue to wait for an official response to a funding application we submitted back in July 2021 to the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program. As mentioned last month, 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 month 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

The deadline for our 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) is this 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. 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. The work on the crossing has been delayed but continues and we hope that it will be completed soon.

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)

A discussion at last week's Committee of the Whole meeting on the Community Health Centre project provided further direction to staff and the next steps include bringing forward design options to Council and researching potential locations.

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 28TH TO APRIL 24TH, 2022

TOPICS

Budget

The budget has been one of the main priorities in the last three months. Council reviewed the first draft of the operating and capital budgets on March 12 and discussed adjustments on April 11. 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 4, 2022 and the due date is May 15, 2022. 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.

Shelburne County Lobster Fest

Plans are underway for this year's Shelburne County Lobster Festival. Tentative dates are June 2-5, 2022. The Lobster Fest Market vendor registration is already open, with over 30 vendors already registered. We are aiming to host the Tinkers Challenge, the Light 'Em Up for Lobster Fest boat lighting competition. Our committee will be meeting soon to discuss other events.

2022 World Double Bit Axe Throwing Championships

The planning is in full swing for this event which is scheduled for August 26-28, 2022. The Local Organizing Committee has received support from the provincial government in the amount of \$20,000 and support from the local business community has been overwhelmingly, which is great to see. We are waiting on word from ACOA to round out the grant portion of the budget. The volunteer database is growing but we encourage more people to sign up to volunteer. They can find the link on the World Double Bit Axe Throwing Championships Facebook page or go to novalumberjacks.com to learn more. International/National (outside the Maritime Region) registration is now open for the event and Maritime Qualifiers will be held in June and July in Moncton, NB, Dartmouth, NS, and Barrington, NS.



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2022 Tourist Season

We are currently interviewing for our Summer Tourism Ambassador positions and are looking forward to hosting more visitors this year as COVID regulations are eased, making traveling much more accessible to everyone.

Updates have been made to the Shelburnecounty.ca website over the past month, which will see it become more user-friendly. We have placed an ad in the Sea Nova Scotia publication and are currently working with Canada Travel & Lifestyle Magazine on a print publication and highway billboard advertising that will be focused on Ontario travelers.

Travel Media Association of Canada Conference

We continue to partner on the preparations for the Travel Media Association of Canada Conference, being held in Yarmouth from June 22-26, 2022. We will be hosting at least 6 tours in the Municipality/Shelburne during that time. Itineraries are being developed and confirmation with restaurants, museums, accommodations, and experiences are being worked on. A reminder that the Municipality supported this event with a financial contribution of \$5,000.

Nova Scotia Marathon

The Marathon Committee has been working hard and are seeing extremely good response from participants. Registration numbers were 268 at the April meeting. To put that in context, In 2019, the last “regular” year, registration for the event in April was 87 participants. The Marathon Committee along with Mile East administering the event, is working incredibly well and we are very happy with the arrangement.

Recreation Programming

The Department assisted Sherose Island Rocks with their now annual Easter Egg Hunt. 315 kids along with their families attended the egg hunt on the trail. There were s’mores, live bunny petting zoo and tons of “hidden” eggs. We also contracted Big Bounce with activity at the Recreation Centre and playground. The MOM market also held a sale in the arena parking lot. Everything was extremely well attended. The trail tracker showed 704 people on the trail that day but in the entire area, there were hundreds more.

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Here is a list of upcoming events and activities:

Guided Hikes

- April 30 – The ROCK in Shag Harbour
- June 18 – Hike into History (in partnership with the Barrington Museum Complex) at the Wireless Station.

After School Pop-Up Play

- May 26 – Mantracker: The Search for Sasquatch at the Sherose Island Nature Trail
- June 14 – Star Wars Dodgeball in Clark’s Harbour

Try It Sessions

- To be scheduled include SUP, kayaking, cycling, archery, skateboard, disc golf, tennis, pickleball.

The Department has received special community partner invitations to a June workshop titled Community Wellbeing & the Environment through Dalhousie. This workshop will look at how built and natural environments can build community health and wellness. The Sherose Island Trail will be used as an example.

Summer staffing selection process is underway with interviews being scheduled over the next 2 weeks. We are still looking for additional aquatic staff and have some lined up to be trained before the season. We will continue to accept applications as long as positions remain open. Coordinators will start on May 24 and summer leaders begin June 27. Training takes place the week of June 27 – July 1 in coordination with neighboring municipal units.

We are aiming to open summer program registration on June 8. We will again offer 2 day camps and a youth leadership camp. Each camp will have 6 full weeks of programming. Two weeks will be used to program to families, preschoolers, seniors, and teens. Details will be communicated through our website and Facebook page as they developed by our summer coordinator staff.

In the month of March there was 933 people who used the Sherose Island Nature trail. The highest single day amount was 102 on March 18 and March 30. March 18 was on the Friday of March Break and March 30 was the day we did the “Escape the Trail” wellness activity with staff and After the Bell.

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We purchased three more kayaks for part of programming and equipment loan. We now have 8 kayaks. Joel will offer kayaking clinics in June and July and will look at promoting kayaks as part of equipment loan program.

The Department is finalizing an application to the Active Communities Fund. We are looking at doing three projects – 1) creating a loose parts play video with a camera, and a magnet to track usage of loose parts shed 2) Hike Nova Scotia badge challenge which would be a partnership with Hike Nova Scotia. Many communities are part of this challenge and we have chosen locations in the municipality for people to hike and once they complete each section, they will receive a badge. 3) purchasing bicycles to help grow cycling in Barrington.

Building Permits & By-Law Enforcement

From March 21, 2022, to April 16, 2022, 21 permits were issued with a total dollar value of \$528,000. This is a \$3,053,300 decrease compared to the same period last year. 44 building inspections, 8 fire inspections and 2 fire re-inspection were carried out.

During this period, 1 new civic number 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 5 new subdivision applications and sent 4 others for registration, so we now have 5 open subdivision files that we continue to work on.

During this period, we received 3 by-law complaints relating to illegal dumping and land use. 1 issue has been resolved and 2 are outstanding.

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.

Dwayne has been working on a schedule for level 1 training this summer for fire departments in Eastern Shelburne County East. Over the last year we have generated approximately \$9,500 in revenue from training and course materials to other fire departments and businesses in the County. Also training related, Dwayne sent a proposal to FSANS to try and access some of the

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insurance levy funding to pay for three courses that he teaches – the vehicle extrication, strategy and tactics and safety officer courses.

Otherwise, Dwayne attended a Shelburne County Mutual Aid Association special meeting, continues to monitor COVID-19 updates from the province and EMONS and performed monthly fire and life safety inspections.

Last March, the Fire Departments responded to 30 calls, and they responded to 11 in March 2021. Here is the data for the month of March:

BARRINGTON MUNICIPAL FIRE SERVICE							
EMERGENCY CALLS March 2022							
FIRE DEPARTMENT	Fire	Mut	Auto	MFR	MVC	Other	TOTAL
		Aid	Aid				
Barrington/Port La Tour FD	1		1		1	1	4
Island Barrington Passage FD	1		1		1	1	4
Woods Harbour/Shag Harbour FD	1			2			3
TOTALS	3		2	2	2	2	11
B/PLT - 1 Chimney							
IBP - 1 - Chimney							
WH/SH- 1 Grass threatening structures							



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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
8	Municipal Admin Building Accessibility	In Progress
6	Internet Project	Completed
7	Municipal Admin Office Renovations	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

