

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Barrington Municipal Council held in the Council Chambers, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., on Tuesday, October 24, 2023. The meeting was called to order by the Warden at 7:09 p.m., with the following members present:

- Warden Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson
- Councillor George El-Jakl
- Councillor Andrea Mood-Nickerson
- Councillor Shaun Hatfield

- Deputy Warden Jody Crook – Absent due to work commitments.

- Chris Frotten, CAO
- Lesa Rossetti, Municipal Clerk

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

Motion carried unanimously.

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Councillor Mood-Nickerson informed members that she would be declaring Conflict of Interest when Council deals with the grant request from FRA Home and School Group.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Being duly moved and seconded that minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held September 26, 2023 and Special Council Meeting held October 11, 2023 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no matters arising from previous meetings.

REPORT OF WARDEN

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

REPORT OF COUNCILLORS

Councillors provided a brief report on their activities since the last meeting of Council.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL

Councillor El-Jakl reported on recommendations from the Committee of the Whole Council.

Planning Initiative Intermunicipal Agreement

Resolution C231001

Being duly moved and seconded that the Municipality not participate in the Tri-County Regional Planning Initiative at this time.

AFFIRMATIVE

Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson
George El-Jakl

NEGATIVE

Andrea Mood-Nickerson
Shaun Hatfield

Motion defeated.

Good Will Club of Barrington – Grant Request

Resolution C231002

Being duly moved and seconded that a grant in the amount of \$500.00 be provided to the Good Will Club of Barrington for 2023/24.

Motion carried unanimously.

FRA Home and School Group – Grant Request

Conflict of interest

Councillor Andrea Mood-Nickerson declared Conflict of Interest, vacated her seat and left the meeting.

Councillor Mood-Nickerson is a member of the FRA Home and School Group.

Resolution C231003

Being duly moved and seconded that a grant in the amount of \$500.00 be provided to the FRA Home and School Group for 2023/24.

Motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Mood-Nickerson returned to the meeting.

Poor Cell Coverage

Resolution C231004

Being duly moved and seconded that the Municipality work with its neighbouring municipal units to address the poor cell signal in the Municipality with our federal and provincial colleagues, the Western Regional Enterprise Network and cellular service providers.

Motion carried unanimously.

Barrington Cemetery Association Grant Request

Resolution C231005

Being duly moved and seconded that a grant in the amount of \$500.00 be provided to the Barrington Cemetery Association for 2023/24.

Motion carried unanimously.

Report on In-Camera Session – Re: Forest View Estates, Barrington

Resolution C231006

Being duly moved and seconded that the Municipality commit to taking over ownership of the sewer lateral to support the expansion of the housing development in Forest View Estates, as requested by the owner and the request for the Municipality to takeover the roadways be denied.

Motion carried unanimously.

Committee and Board Appointments for 2023-2024

Resolution C231007

Being duly moved and seconded that appointments to the various committees and boards be approved as indicated below for 2023/24:

COMMITTEE	MEMBERSHIP
Committees of Council	
Committee of the Whole Council	ALL
Planning Advisory Committee (3)	Eddie Nickerson Jody Crook George El-Jakl
Audit Committee (3) (2) minimum citizen appointments	Eddie Nickerson Jody Crook Andrea Mood-Nickerson
Joint EMO Executive Committee (2)	Eddie Nickerson George El-Jakl
Joint Police Advisory Board (2)	Eddie Nickerson Jody Crook
NS Marathon Committee (Ad hoc committee created Sept 12/18) (At least 1 member of council and minimum 6 citizens)	Jody Crook Eddie Nickerson
Recreation Advisory Committee (2)	Jody Crook Andrea Mood-Nickerson Alternate George El-Jakl
Accessibility Advisory Committee (3)	Eddie Nickerson Shaun Hatfield George El-Jakl

Outside Committees to which Council Appoints a Councillor	
Region 6 Waste (1)	Andrea Mood-Nickerson Alternate – Jody Crook
Western REN Liaison and Oversight Committee	Eddie Nickerson Alternate Shaun Hatfield
Western Counties Regional Library (1)	Shaun Hatfield
Roseway Hospital Charitable Foundation (1)	Eddie Nickerson
Yarmouth Hospital Charitable Foundation (1)	Shaun Hatfield

Motion carried unanimously.

Set Meeting Dates for December, 2023

Resolution C231008

Being duly moved and seconded that the Committee of the Whole Council Meeting be held on December 5th and the Council Meeting be held on December 12, 2023.

Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORT

The Chief Administrative Officer provided his report to members in advance to the meeting for the period ending October 24, 2023 of which a copy is attached and forms part of the minutes.

NEW OR OTHER BUSINESS

Consideration of Adoption of Draft “Asset Retirement Obligation Policy”

As a result of new Municipal Accounting Standards, it is necessary for the Municipality to adopt an “Asset Retirement Obligation Policy”. This policy identifies how we will treat asset retirement obligations.

The draft policy was circulated to members in advance of the meeting and notice was given to members on October 10, 2023, that the adoption of the draft Asset Retirement Obligation Policy would be considered tonight.

Resolution C231009

Being duly moved and seconded that the Asset Retirement Obligation Policy be approved, as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Camping Facilities at Sand Hills Beach Provincial Park

A reply has been received from the Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables in response

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to Council's request that consideration be given to investigating the feasibility of introducing camping facilities at Sand Hills Beach Provincial Park. The Minister advised that due to the existing requirements and responsibilities of his department, the introduction of camping facilities in day-use parks is not feasible. The department strives to provide each region with a camping park. Islands Provincial Park located in Shelburne would be the closest to Barrington and Sand Hills. In closing, the Minister advised that he has requested department staff to contact the Municipality regarding Sand Hills and the regional parks system.

Federal Fuel Charge Exemption

Council previously requested the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change to consider granting volunteer emergency service providers with an exemption from the new fuel charge. Correspondence has now been received from that department advising that our request falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Finance Canada and has been forwarded for their consideration.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

There were no items brought forward.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Warden

Chief Administrative Officer

Secretary for the Meeting

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KEY STRATEGIC AREAS

1. Growing our Economy

3.1 Attract Accommodations

We continue to facilitate discussions between a hotel management and development company and a local developer in the hopes of increasing the number of accommodations in the Municipality.

As mentioned last month, we've engaged HVS Consulting and Valuation Services to update the Short Narrative Appraisal Report for a Proposed Extended-Stay Hotel they completed in 2018. They are close to finalizing their report which will provide us with an update picture of the market demand and estimated market value for an extended-stay hotel in our Municipality.

3.2 Invest in our Beaches and Parks

Nothing new to report at this time.

3.3 Improved Cell Service

As mentioned last month, we reached out to Bell to get a better understanding of the Municipality's current cellular coverage and infrastructure. We recently received the information and will be reviewing it to determine the next steps.

In addition, the five units in Shelburne County recently wrote to the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities to urge them to prioritize and intensify their advocacy towards both the Provincial and Federal Governments through their Public Safety Advisory Committee or possibly create a dedicated committee on the issue.

3.4 Municipal Property Development

Nothing new to report at this time.

3.5 Renewable Energy

Nothing new to report at this time.

2. Investing in our People

2.1 Community Health Centre

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Jost + Architects Ltd continues their work on engaging stakeholders and developing the preliminary design of the Centre. A legal and topographic survey of the property in which the Centre will be located began two weeks ago. In two weeks, a geotechnical study of the property will be conducted.

2.2 Doctor Recruitment & Retention

Nothing new to report at this time.

2.3 Public Transit

Nothing new to report at this time.

3. Strengthening our Communities

3.1 Infrastructure Renewal

This objective is completed.

3.2 Housing

We continue to work with our provincial and federal counterparts to do what we can to improve the housing stock in our Municipality. Last month, Council identified a list of properties to be submitted to the Province for inclusion in their property inventory for new provincial housing developments. We hope that identifying these properties, along with supporting local developers in their projects, will help boost the local stock of housing options.

Yesterday, the Province released its five-year housing plan – Our Homes, Action for Housing. The needs assessment report, by Turner Drake & Partners Ltd., estimates that at the current pace of construction, which brings about 6,000 units to market each year, there will be a shortage of 41,200 housing units by 2027-28 if aggressive action is not taken.

The needs assessment and Our Homes, Action for Housing are available at: <https://novascotia.ca/action-for-housing/>

3.3 Improved Wastewater Services

Nothing new to report at this time.

3.4 Accessibility

Our Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) continues to meet regularly.

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Most recently, the Committee has discussed the discontinuation of the sidewalk in front of Petro Canada Station, in Barrington Passage, emergency preparedness for persons with disabilities, a webinar hosted by Accessibility Nova Scotia on “Accessibility in the Built Environment” and the creation of a sub-committee to plan events during Access Awareness Week in May of 2024.

The Accessibility Act requires the involvement of persons with disabilities, the public and private sectors, and other community members in the development of accessibility standards. Accessibility Nova Scotia is inviting people to review the proposed standard work and send in input. The feedback from the public review will be provided to the Minister of Justice and the Accessibility Advisory Board for consideration before the standard work is finalized.

The public review will run until October 30, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.

You can find information about the proposed standard work and provide your feedback online or via email, letter, or phone. More information is available here: www.novascotia.ca/built-environment-public-review

3.5 Diversity and Inclusion

Nothing new to report at this time.

4. Operating Efficiently

4.1 Develop an Employee Retention Program

Nothing new to report at this time.

4.2 Create an Economic Development Office

Nothing new to report at this time.

4.3 Consider the Expansion of the C&D Site

Nothing new to report at this time.

4.4 Transparency

We continue to work on having a strong social media presence to inform our residents on municipal matters and we continue to actively publish all publicly available municipal documents. Our Director of Marketing and Tourism and Recreation Director are participating in a community of practice for municipal communications professionals being hosted by the Association of

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Municipal Administrators of Nova Scotia. The goal of the community of practice is to share knowledge, advice, and best practices on a pre-determined communications related topic, as well as to foster relationship-building throughout the municipal communications community.

November 6-12, 2023, will be recognized as Municipal Awareness Week. We will be participating to recognize the vital role of municipal government and promote the services we provide.

5. Keeping Barrington Moving

5.1 Enhance Recreation Programs

Nothing new to report at this time.

5.2 Sherose Island Recreation Complex Strategy

Nothing new to report at this time.

5.3 Increase the Number of Outdoor Spaces Strategy

Nothing new to report at this time.

5.4 Trail Expansion

The Sherose Island Trail had 229 people on the trail in September 2023. The highest single use day was 18 on September 9. In September 2022, there was 751. The weather is likely to have been a factor this year.

We have started work on the boardwalk on the Sherose Island Rocks Trail. This includes approximately 70m of boardwalk and bench sitting area overlooking the water. This is the section that we have issues with the terrain being extremely muddy so this will make it useable all year round.

5.5 Sidewalk Expansion

Nothing new to report at this time.

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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FROM SEPTEMBER 26TH TO OCTOBER 23RD, 2023

TOPICS

Christmas at the Causeway

Planning is underway for our annual Christmas events and the building of the Lobster Trap Christmas tree. The tentative date for the tree lighting ceremony is Thursday, November 23. We are working with South Shore Tourism and the Nova Scotia Lobster Crawl on some cross-promotional activities which will bring in some travel media to showcase the Christmas festival and the kick-off to our lobster season on dumping day.

In addition to our standard activities such as the tree lighting and fireworks, we are partnering with the Barrington Municipal Library to deliver a story trail at Sherose Island and a special edition of Tales & Tumblebugs (a program our Recreation Department started this summer with the library). We will also host the annual Reindeer Dash as well as a Capture Christmas field game for school-aged youth.

Recreation Programming

Fall programming has started with several holiday themed events that we are either hosting or supporting:

- Family Outdoor Movie – Hocus Pocus: New date being determined due to weather and scheduling.
- BMHS Superhero Run – September 28
- Halloween Treat Trail hosted by Sherose Island Rocks – September 28
- Halloween Skate Party! – September 29
- Humans Vs. Zombies – November 1

Other events and programming include After the Bell, guided hikes, pickleball, seniors drop-in events and family play programming. All our activities are located on our recreation Facebook and Instagram pages along with those shared from all the other organizations we support.

We now have a Community Use of Schools partnership with both BMHS and FRA schools where we support them with the booking administration. It is working great and provides people an easier way to book activity space.

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Misty is presenting at a Sun Safety Coalition seminar about the role of Sport & Recreation and cancer prevention. The recreation field have done a lot over the years to change unsafe sun behaviors, and this will highlight some of that work.

A wooden shed has been built at the Sherose Island boat launch area. This shed will store kayaks and stand-up paddle boards to be used for equipment loan and programming.

Development Office & By-Law Enforcement

From September 10 to October 14, 44 permits were issued for a total value of \$2,517,200. This is a \$1,905,400 increase over the same period last year. We continue to issue a lot of new home permits for housing developments, and some rebuilds related to the wildfires.

91 building inspections along with 6 fire inspections and 1 fire re-inspection were carried out during this period.

No new civic numbers were issued this period, but 9 places were visited to discuss proper civic numbering.

We finalized and submitted the three outstanding subdivision applications and now have no open subdivision applications.

We received three new by-law complaints. This leaves us with 14 open complaints that we continue to work on.

Fire Services & Emergency Management

Our Coordinator is 25% of the way through the Firefighter I course with 13 students participating. Instructor I course certification has taken place and they are awaiting results. 5 of the 8 students are from our municipality.

We continue to monitor for tropical cyclone development as hurricane season is upon us. We monitored and corresponded with the PCC during Hurricane Lee and Post Tropical Storm Philippe. Power disruptions and beach erosion were the main impacts.

Otherwise, our Fire Services/EMO Coordinator is monitoring for tropical cyclone development as hurricane season is upon us and has performed monthly fire and life safety inspections.



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This past September, the fire departments responded to 20 calls, compared to 19 in September of 2022. Here is the data for this past month months:

BARRINGTON MUNICIPAL FIRE SERVICE							
EMERGENCY CALLS September 2023							
FIRE DEPARTMENT	Fire	Mut Aid	Auto Aid	MFR	MVC	Other	TOTAL
Barrington/Port La Tour FD						4	4
Island Barrington Passage FD					1	9	10
Woods Harbour/Shag Harbour FD				6			6
TOTALS				6	1	13	20
B/PLT -							
IBP -							
WH/SH-							



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CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE

Here is an update on our 2023-2024 Capital Projects:

Rank	Project	Status
4	Beach Facilities Water Drilling	Not Started
1	Recreation Centre	In Progress
2	Community Healthcare Centre	In Progress
3	Pool Liner/Pool Lift	In Progress
5	Lighting/Power Stoney Island Beach	In Progress
10	Lobster Sculptures	In Progress
6	Arena Shower/Flooring	Completed
8	Goose Lake Road Improvements	Completed
7	Property Services Building Heat Pump	Completed
9	Brass Hill Clarifier	Completed