

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, November 28, 2023. The meeting was called to order by the Warden at 7:07 p.m., with the following members present:

- Warden Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson
- Deputy Warden Jody Crook
- Councillor Andrea Mood-Nickerson
- Councillor Shaun Hatfield
- Councillor George El-Jakl - Absent due to illness

- 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

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 24, 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

The Deputy Warden and each Councillor provided a brief report on their activities since the last meeting of Council.

REPORT FROM PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Deputy Warden Crook reported on the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee

regarding the proposed development agreement with East and West Boats Limited to construct a boat shop at 7257 Highway 3, in Upper Woods Harbour.

Resolution C231101

Being duly moved and seconded that Council proceed with the process to consider the Development Agreement with East and West Boats Limited, with the amendment including the proper storage of toxic chemicals and the matter be approved in First Reading.

Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL

Councillor Hatfield reported on recommendations from the Committee of the Whole Council.

Barrington/Clarks Harbour Satellite Dialysis Committee

Resolution C231102

Being duly moved and seconded that the Barrington/Clarks Harbour Satellite Dialysis Committee be dissolved and letters of thanks be forwarded to public members.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discontinuation of Sidewalk near PetroCan Station

The Accessibility Advisory Committee has expressed concern regarding the discontinuation of the sidewalk near the PetroCan Station, in Barrington Passage. The break in the sidewalk at this location has caused some concern to individuals with vision impairment. The installation of lines connecting the sidewalk will assist individuals crossing the opening in front of the PetroCan Station.

Resolution C231103

Being duly moved and seconded that steps be taken to connect the Barrington Passage Sidewalk in front of the PetroCan Station by painting 2 – 8 inch lines, consistent with requirements of the Provincial Department of Public Works.

Motion carried unanimously.

Sou'West Nova Transit Grant Application

Resolution C231104

Being duly moved and seconded that an additional \$2,000.00 be provided to the Sou'West Nova Transit Association to be paid from G/L 01-21950003 and since this is the second year in a row that the Association has asked for additional funding that they be asked to include any anticipated shortfall in their yearly request going forward.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Potential Pause in Digby – St. John Ferry Service

Transport Canada is considering using MV Fundy Rose (Digby Ferry) to service the route between Souris, P.E.I. and Iles-de-la-Madeleine, Que., when MV Madeleine II goes into mandatory drydocking next spring. A spring suspension would be highly disruptive and economically costly to our trucking and seafood industries.

Resolution C231105

Being duly moved and seconded that a letter be sent to the Honourable Pablo Rodrigues, Minister of Transport, and copied to MP Rick Perkins, MP Chris d'Entremont, MLA Nolan Young, Premier Tim Houston, Minister of Public Works, Kim Masland and Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Diane LeBouthillier encouraging other options to be explored for a temporary replacement for the PEI-Magdalene Ferry.

Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORT

The Chief Administrative Officer provided his report to members for the period ending November 28, 2023 of which a copy is attached and forms part of the minutes.

NEW OR OTHER BUSINESS

Consideration of Adoption of Newly Drafted Policy 82 "Corporate Identity and Branding Policy"

Policy 82 "Corporate Identity and Branding Policy" has been redrafted to include a new section to deal with "third party use of the title and/or logo". Proposed changes also include some rewording and reformatting.

Notice of consideration of proposed changes was given at the November 14, 2023 meeting of the Committee of the Whole Council.

Resolution C231106

Being duly moved and seconded that the newly drafted Policy 82 "Corporate Identity and Branding Policy" be approved, as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ratify Decision to Sell Surplus Municipal Property

Resolution C231107

Being duly moved and seconded that the decision to accept the offer received from Maneet Malhotra and Varinder Kumar Puri in the amount of \$19,000.00 including HST for the purchase of municipal property located at Clam Point, identified as PID 80033186, be ratified.

Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Response Re: Entrance Sign at Sandhills Provincial Park

Correspondence has been received from the Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables in response to our letter of September 27, 2023, regarding the entrance sign at Sandhills Provincial Park, in Villagedale. The Minister thanked Council for expressing their thoughts on the absence of an entrance sign and advised that in the last two years, signs were installed and stolen from the property. A new sign will be installed in 2024.

During discussion of this matter it was noted that it is very difficult for people to see the sign at the current location. It was agreed that the CAO make contact with the local DNR Manager to discuss this matter of concern.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

There were no items brought forward.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 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 have finalized their report which provides us with an updated 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

On October 26, the Province announced it is investing \$47.3 million to start the new Cellular for Nova Scotia Program to expand telecommunications infrastructure and communications networks throughout the province.

Build Nova Scotia has been charged by the Province to plan, design, and manage the implementation of expanded cellular coverage throughout the province.

Led by Build Nova Scotia, this will involve a two-phased approach:

- The first Request for Proposals (RFP) is seeking innovative and cost-effective proposals to install cellular equipment on existing provincially-owned towers and other existing towers and/or infrastructure identified by proponents to expand cell coverage in underserved areas. The focus is on more immediate innovative solutions.
- RFP 2 will follow to seek solutions to address remaining gap areas.

Overall, the goal is to reach the following coverage targets throughout the populated areas of the province:

- 99% coverage for Basic Voice Call service



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- 95% coverage for Standard-Definition service (eg. emails, web browsing and social media)
- 85% coverage for High-Definition service (eg. video conferencing, movie streaming, and other data intensive applications)

The initial focus will be major transportation corridors and areas with civic addresses.

In 2022, Build Nova Scotia commissioned a cell gap study on behalf of the Province to study cell service levels and identify critical gaps throughout the province. This study and additional analysis has provided a clearer understanding of a common challenge experienced across the country and helped define the scope of the problem. Findings of the study confirm the civic addresses and stretches of roadways that do not have adequate and consistent cell coverage. This will continue to be refined with ongoing discussions and RFP responses.

Through the program, a comprehensive strategy to increase cell coverage will involve working with telecommunications companies and government partners.

1.4 Municipal Property Development

Over the past few weeks, we have made significant progress in identifying and assessing properties that are suitable for sale. We've worked diligently to gather necessary documentation, coordinate with our solicitor and ensure compliance with all relevant regulations.

Currently, we are in the process of listing a number of properties and have been coordinating with our real estate agent to streamline the sale process and address any potential challenges that may arise. Our goal is to ensure a smooth and transparent transaction for both the municipality and prospective buyers.

As we move forward, regular updates will be provided to keep everyone informed of our progress and any important developments.

1.5 Renewable Energy

Nothing new to report at this time.

2. Investing in our People

2.1 Community Health Centre



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A geotechnical study of the property was conducted the week of November 6. A kick-off meeting with the architectural and engineering team was held on November 15.

A set of meetings with local stakeholders will be scheduled in the next couple of months. Our architects are working on finalizing a discussion document so it can be distributed to stakeholders for review prior to the meetings.

2.2 Doctor Recruitment & Retention

Nothing new to report at this time.

2.3 Public Transit

A recommendation from COW was made to Council to provide an additional grant of \$2000 to allow Sou'West Nova Transit to continue to offer automatic reductions to riders from the Municipality. In addition, we continue to participate in Sou'West Nova Transit's work on developing a Collaborative Transportation Solutions Implementation Plan.

3. Strengthening our Communities

3.1 Infrastructure Renewal

This objective is completed.

3.2 Housing

Nothing new to report at this time.

3.3 Improved Wastewater Services

Nothing new to report at this time.

3.4 Accessibility

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

3.5 Diversity and Inclusion

Nothing new to report at this time.

4. Operating Efficiently

4.1 Develop an Employee Retention Program

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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 participate in a community of practice for municipal communications professionals being hosted by the Association of 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.

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

Nothing new to report at this time.

5.5 Sidewalk Expansion

Nothing new to report at this time.

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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FROM OCTOBER 24TH TO NOVEMBER 27TH, 2023

TOPICS

Development Office & By-Law Enforcement

From October 15 to November 16, 32 permits were issued for a total value of \$1,012,000. This is a \$412,500 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.

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

Two new civic numbers were issued this period, a civic point was changed because it was on the wrong property and one point was deleted because the building is no longer there. 20 locations were visited to discuss proper civic numbering.

We have received 2 new subdivisions during this period that we are currently working on.

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

Fire Services & Emergency Management

Our Coordinator is close to completing the Firefighter I course with 15 students participating. All the students in the Instructor I course passed and are now certified instructors.

We held a meeting with the fire chiefs and distributed driver abstract forms and scheduling for upcoming training.

Our Coordinator did his second co-teaching of ICS 200 which should give him the qualification to teach the ICS 100 and 200.

Otherwise, our Fire Services/EMO Coordinator has participated in regional EMO meetings and has performed monthly fire and life safety inspections.

This past October, the fire departments responded to 25 calls, compared to 11 in October of 2022. Here is the data for this past month:

Staff Report Prepared by Chris Frotten for the November 28, 2023, Regular Council Meeting





An ocean of opportunity

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BARRINGTON MUNICIPAL FIRE SERVICE							
EMERGENCY CALLS October 2023							
FIRE DEPARTMENT	Fire	Mut	Auto	MFR	MVC	Other	TOTAL
		Aid	Aid				
Barrington/Port La Tour FD	1		2				3
Island Barrington Passage FD			2		2	8	12
Woods Harbour/Shag Harbour FD	3			3		4	10
TOTALS	4		4	3	2	12	25
B/PLT - 1, brush fire							
IBP -							
WH/SH- 1 structure fire, 1 dryer fire, 1 trash fire							



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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

