

Staff Report
October 24, 2023

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	Auto	MFR	MVC	Other	TOTAL
		Aid	Aid				
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