

Staff Report
September 26, 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.

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. This 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

We continue to work on the review our Beach Strategy. On August 25, we held a Grand Opening of our accessible beach at Stoney Island. It was very well attended and was a great opportunity for the municipality to promote its accessibility work.

3.3 Improved Cell Service

The poor cellular service in our area has been a topic of discussion at a number of tables of the past month. Earlier this summer, Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland called for urgent action from Canada's telecommunications regulator, the CRTC, after elected officials in Nova Scotia raised concerns that poor cellular service had prevented residents from receiving emergency alerts during recent floods and wildfires.

Recently, the Western Regional Enterprise Network has been working on gathering local data on cellular service. Through a survey, they determined that 37% of respondents felt that cellular service was very unreliable at their workplace and Barrington and Woods Harbour ranked in the top 5 location of noticeably poor cellular signal.

In an effort to get a better understanding of the Municipality's current cellular coverage and infrastructure, we reached out to Bell. They will be conducting a review of our coverage with an overlay of known problem areas and then provided a report outlining any upcoming projects that may improve those areas.



Staff Report
September 26, 2023

Although there does not seem to be any expansion program or funding for new sites at this time, this will give us an idea of what the next steps could be and what kind of financial commitment may be required.

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

On September 8, we had our initial setup meeting with Jost + Architects Ltd. This was an opportunity for us to discuss roles and responsibilities, revise the project timeline, identify key stakeholders and determine immediate next steps. A kick-off meeting will be held in the next few weeks to officially get things underway.

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. Recently, 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.



Staff Report
September 26, 2023

3.3 Improved Wastewater Services

Nothing new to report at this time.

3.4 Accessibility

Our Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) continues to meet regularly. An accessibility audit on our main properties and facilities has been complete and we continue to pursue and promote funding opportunities to help offset the cost of improving accessibility.

Most recently, Terri Lynn Almeda, Director of Programs and Services with the Accessibility Directorate presented information on the Nova Scotia Accessibility Act, Access by Design 2030, standard development, collaboration and support, to the Committee.

On August 25, we held a Grand Opening of our accessible beach at Stoney Island. It was very well attended and was a great opportunity for the municipality to promote its accessibility work.

3.5 Diversity and Inclusion

After extensive research on varying options for diversity, equity and inclusion training, the senior management team will be trialing two options over the coming weeks to determine which best fit our needs. Following these trials, we will develop an implementation plan for the rest of staff.

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

Staff Report
September 26, 2023

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.

Municipal Awareness Week will once again be held in November, and we will be participating in 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

In the month of August, 487 people visited the Sherose Island Nature Trail. In August 2022, there were 1,107 people. We attribute the low usage in comparison to last year to the bear sightings in late August.

Our Physical Activity Coordinator has been working on the next steps for the Sherose Island Nature Trail which will be to build a boardwalk near the ocean as that area is deemed inaccessible for a majority of residents. They have also been looking at ways for the trail to have more play and physical activity aspects.

Other trail projects include drafting a plan for a new nature trail in Centreville, partnering with BMHS to support a multi-use trail on the school property and continuing to promote the Woodland Multi-use Trails Association.

5.5 Sidewalk Expansion

Nothing new to report at this time.



Staff Report
September 26, 2023

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FROM AUGUST 22ND TO SEPTEMBER 25TH, 2023

TOPICS

Sandy Wickens Memorial Arena

The Arena opened on September 16, with the Southwest Storm, our local Nova Scotia Regional Junior Hockey League team, hosting tryouts. We are excited for the year ahead and look forward to welcoming all of the familiar and new faces.

Recreation Programming

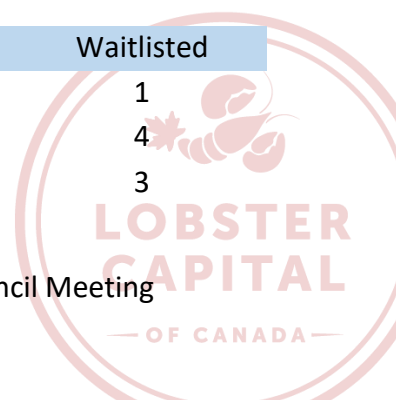
We are planning a slate of special events for the fall including a family outdoor movie night, family fun and adult hikes, drop in fun nights for youth, and starting to grow some pre-school programming as well as senior-specific activities.

Assessments of summer program data are complete. The addition of the pool chair lift was dependent on having a swim team and we did not get that off the ground fully this year. We are seeking alternative funding sources while not completely closing the door on the sport funding – it is still a good possibility. Based on the enrollment data, we will look for ways to better deliver swim instruction. An issue is training aquatic staff and the limited rural resources provided by the Lifesaving Society, which is now the only provider of certifications, is a challenge. We are looking into bringing in-house condensed instruction at the beginning of the pool season for our aquatic staff. This would help provide a good rationale to open in early June as well.

We achieved very good participation rates in our summer recreation programming and are collecting evaluations from participants to help plan for next year. Specialty camps were delivered each week for 3-4 days. We staffed Stoney Island Beach Days every Friday and those were extremely well attended. Next year we will look at revamping the junior leader program to better meet diverse needs.

Summer Recreation Camp Program Data Summary

Camp Name	Subcategory	Max	Total Participants	Waitlisted
Branching Out Nature Camp	Age 5-7	20	20	1
Down on the Farm Camp	Age 5-7	20	20	4
Magical Adventures	Age 5-7	20	19	3



Staff Report
September 26, 2023

Work of Art	Age 5-7	20	18	0
Storybook Camp	Age 5-7	20	19	2
Wet N Wild Camp	Age 5-7	20	20	5
Disney Days	Age 5-7	20	20	5
Holiday Camp	Age 5-7	20	19	1
		160	155 (96.88%)	
Adventureland Camp	Age 8-11	24	16	0
All-Star Sports Camp	Age 8-11	24	22	0
Show Your Skills Camp	Age 8-11	24	14	0
Go for the Gold	Age 8-11	24	18	0
Wet n Wild	Age 8-11	24	23	0
Mad Science Camp	Age 8-11	24	19	0
Camp Carnival	Age 8-11	24	20	0
Holiday Camp	Age 8-11	24	22	0
		192	154 (80.21%)	

A few months ago, we applied for funding through Recreation Nova Scotia's equipment loan program to purchase skates for residents and newcomers to the area. The skates arrived in September and we will not be working with Schools Plus at BMHS to offer skating lessons for newcomer students.

Building Permits & By-Law Enforcement

From August 20 to September 9, 33 permits were issued for a total value of \$293,700. 90 building inspections along with 10 fire inspections, 8 fire re-inspections and one alcohol and gaming inspection were carried out during this period.

We issued 2 new civic numbers, and 5 places were visited to discuss proper civic numbering.

We continue to work on three outstanding subdivision applications.

We received one new by-law complaint, and one was resolved. This leaves us with 10 open complaints that we continue to work on.



Staff Report
September 26, 2023

Fire Services & Emergency Management

Our Coordinator has begun a Firefighter I course with 20 students and completed an Instruct I course with 8 students and a Firefighter II course with 7 students.

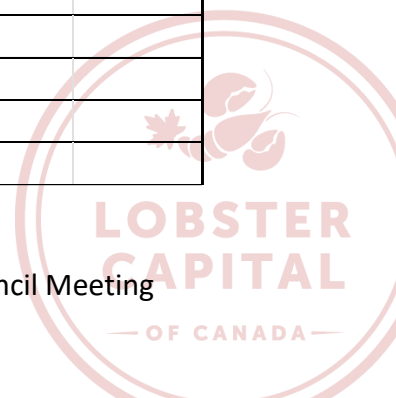
The BPLT Fire Department is exploring the possibility of replacing their Suburban which is nearing the end of its useful life, with a ¾-ton truck. No loan would be necessary for this replacement. They are also planning on the replacement of their pumper as per the equipment replacement plan but may have to order it soon as delivery times seem to be upwards of 3 years.

Work continues on the after-action review with external partners for the County in conjunction with Shelburne County East Emergency Management. Our Coordinator presented a timeline of the wildfire and reviewed information from the staff surveys with municipal staff. Implementation of the recommendations is ongoing.

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.

This past August, the Fire Departments responded to 25 calls, compared to 17 in August of 2022. Here is the data for this past month months:

BARRINGTON MUNICIPAL FIRE SERVICE							
EMERGENCY CALLS August 2023							
FIRE DEPARTMENT	Fire	Mut	Auto	MFR	MVC	Other	TOTAL
		Aid	Aid				
Barrington/Port La Tour FD	1				2	8	11
Island Barrington Passage FD	2			1	2	1	6
Woods Harbour/Shag Harbour FD				6	1	1	8
TOTALS	3			7	5	10	25
B/PLT - 1 Brush Fire							
IBP - 2 Brush Fire							
WH/SH-							



Staff Report
September 26, 2023

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
6	Arena Shower/Flooring	In Progress
10	Lobster Sculptures	In Progress
8	Goose Lake Road Improvements	Completed
7	Property Services Building Heat Pump	Completed
9	Brass Hill Clarifier	Completed