

Staff Report
February 22nd, 2021

KEY STRATEGIC AREAS

1. Infrastructure Renewal

a. New Recreation Centre

The survey launched last month to help us get a better understanding of how important it is to always have a walking track available and more garnered 250 responses. The responses are still being analyzed and a report will be prepared and presenter to Council in March.

As noted last month, COVID-19 restrictions discourage large in-person open houses or meetings, but we are considering the idea of hosting an online webinar to provide more information on the project and allow for an interactive Q&A style session.

b. Development of Asset Management Plan

We continue to await a response from FCM regarding our funding application to the Municipal Asset Management Program.

c. Renewal or Expansion of Sewer System

Nothing new to report at this time.

2. Economic Growth

a. Development of Additional Business/Commercial Property

Nothing new to report at this time.

b. Reduction of Commercial Taxation

Nothing new to report at this time.

c. Improved Access to Internet

Earlier this month, Develop Nova Scotia added two new coverage maps for the Barrington East and Port La Tour projects that includes the Clyde River, Goose Lake and Port Clyde, Port La Tour, Smithville, West Baccaro, East Baccaro, Baccaro, Blanche, Cape Negro, Upper Port La Tour, Reynoldscoft and Thomasville areas. These are the two projects announced back in September which includes a municipal investment of \$243,925.

The projects' anticipated completion is still under development, but this provides us with a general sense of where the service will go. Additional information will be added as it becomes

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available so if you do not see your home or community in the projects listed to date, please keep that in mind.

For more information on these projects, visit our dedicate webpage at <https://bit.ly/3li8Zeh> or <https://internet.developns.ca/zones/shelburne-barrington/>.

3. Promotion and Support of the Tourism Industry

a. Amenities at Beaches

Last month, Council approved the creation of our Beaches Resource Team and requested that terms of references be developed. The terms have now been drafted and are on the agenda for Council's consideration. The purpose of the team will be to provide a collaborative approach to guidance and expert advice in the implementation of our Beaches Strategy and associated plans.

b. Work to Attract Accommodations

Nothing new to report at this time.

4. Provision or Support of Services for Residents of the Municipality

a. Continued Work Towards Additional Medical Services (Medical Clinic, Dialysis)

Nothing new to report at this time.

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 JANUARY 25TH TO FEBRUARY 21ST

TOPICS

New Complaints Handling System

We will be launching a new complaints handling system on March 1. "Helpdesk" will help us streamline the complaint process through a cloud-based app which will allow the public to submit complaints online. A public page that includes a form will be available for residents to report problems 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from any device and location. Internally, Staff and Council will have access to an internal application (authorized access only) to manage the complaints/inquiries.

We are very excited to implement this new system which will better serve our residents and allow staff to manage complaints more efficiently. The system, which was built on the foundation of our complaints handling policy, has been under development for over 4 months. Thank you to the team comprised of frontline staff and enforcement officers that have been working with developers on building the system and will ultimately implement it.

As of March 1, residents can report problems by visiting our website and clicking on "Report a Problem" on our homepage or visiting <https://helpdesk.barringtonmunicipality.com/report>.

Trails

We have had an amazing response to our **trail** activities recently and are continuing some for the next few weeks. The Sherose Island Nature Trail was lit with solar lights along sections for the long weekend. The trail saw at least 100 people per night and with normal daytime traffic, we likely had at least double that visit the trail each day over the 3 days. We are leaving the lights up for another week and will plan to use them again a few times a year.

The Department is meeting with the Western Region Trail Coordinator to get some information and guidance on planning improvements for the Sherose Island Nature Trail. We are also offering a consult to the Barrington Leisure Park Committee because they wish to have a connecting trail to the multi-purpose trail as part of their park design.

Recreation Programming

Job descriptions for summer positions have been updated and postings will go out this week. Last year finding staff was extremely difficult so we wish to start early and do some recruiting in BMHS

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and also during university/college holidays and reading breaks. We have a good understanding of the public health restrictions and can reasonably plan activities as a result.

A reminder that the **Nova Scotia Volunteer Awards Ceremony** is scheduled to take place virtually on April 26th. We are aiming to recognize all nominees in Barrington on April 22nd. The type of event is still “to be determined” but we will aim for something in person. We are now taking nominations for volunteers from the community and the form is available at the recreation office, on the website or may be completed online.

In partnership with the Municipality of Shelburne, we launched the **Take the Trail Punch Card Challenge**, this punch card challenge is to increase the usage of our Multi-Use Trails around Shelburne County. The Municipality has 5 sections that has punch cards on them. Our sections are in Port Clyde, Barrington, Barrington Passage, Shag Harbour, and Lower Woods Harbour. Most sections are roughly 3 km in length. This challenge was launched on February 12 and will conclude on March 22.

Finally, we made our last purchase under the 2020-2021 Active Communities Fund Grant. We have purchased 7 mud kitchens from a local carpenter. Mud kitchens are a great tool to use for kids to get outdoors and play with nature. We will be distributing the mud kitchens in the Springtime to families with the assistance of Schools Plus and Early Childhood Intervention Centre. We are now turning our attention on planning for the 2021-2022 Active Communities Fund Grant – looking at projects that will improve Sherose Island Nature Trail, Active Play, and support leadership for leadership training for women in our area.

Here is a list of upcoming youth and family events:

- Take the Trail Punch Card Challenge – February 12 to March 21
- Love Trail – February 12 to 22
- Adult Hike Series Sunset Hike/Snowshoe followed a little later with Full Moon Hike/Snowshoe – February 27
- Adult Hike Series – Wireless Station Hike – March 13
- Into the Beyond – Family Adventure – March 7 (date changed to meet current gathering restrictions)
- March Break pop-up activities to include skates, scavenger hunts, disc golf, etc. – March 13 to 21

Tax Sale

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Due to COVID-19 restrictions, our annual tax sale will be by tender this year. There are currently 21 properties on the tax sale list. Tenders will be accepted until 2:00 p.m. AST on Friday, March 19, 2021. For complete details on the process, as well as the properties available, residents can visit <http://bit.ly/3arkg9a>.

Free Low-Income Tax Program

Beginning on March 1, the Shelburne County Senior Services Society will begin their low-income tax program. This free service to all low-income seniors and residents of Shelburne County will see their CRA registered volunteers complete and file residents' income taxes. There will be 4 locations throughout the County. The Municipality of Barrington's location is in the Administrative Centre from March 1 – April 30 and will be available for walk-ins and drop offs on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The low-income threshold is \$35,000 for an individual, \$45,000 for a couple or \$47,500 for 3 people. For more information, interested residents can phone 1-800-656-0397. A note that all COVID-19 rules and guidelines will be enforced, and masks must be worn at all locations.

2021-2022 Tourist Season

Plans are underway for the 2021-22 tourism season. We are working on a plan for visitor servicing this summer and how that will look given the COVID-19 restrictions and the foreseeable limited travel restrictions that will be in place. Diane Smith, our VIC Manager for the last 20 years has decided to officially retire this year. We wish her a well-deserved retirement and thank her for providing us with exceptional service to those who have visited us over the years and overseeing those who have worked along side her. She always ensured our visitors were greeted with a smile and provided the best advice during their stay.

Suzy is working closely with the Municipality of Shelburne on a plan for marketing Shelburne County Tourism which will be both digital and influencer based. They will also be working closely with our stakeholders in the County to help provide opportunities for training, workshops, and better engagement.

Building Permits & By-Law Enforcement

From January 18 to February 14, 14 permits were issued with a total dollar value of \$566,000. 27 building inspections were carried out along with 12 fire inspections and 12 fire re-inspections.

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One new civic number was issued this reporting period, three were corrected and one was deleted due to a demolition. 62 homes were visiting to discuss the civic numbering by-law. No new subdivisions were received during this period, but we presently have two open subdivision files that we continue to work on. One new variance has been requested which was denied, and subsequently appealed to Council.

We received seven new by-law complaints. Four have been resolved and we continue to work on the remaining three. During this period, we received no new dangerous and unsightly complaints and have no open files.

Fire Services & Emergency Management

There continues to be no COVID-19 related staffing issues for the fire departments, and they continue to monitor the status of their membership and communicate that information to the Fire Services Coordinator.

Dwayne has revised the EMO plan and is working with the planning committee to review it. Once review by the planning committee, it will be presneted to Council for their consideration and approval.

The honour guard items we purchased have arrived and the fire departments have been advised. The items are on display in a glass display case next to the Conference Room in the Administrative Centre.

Otherwise, Dwayne reviewed all the fire department budgets with Leah, continues to monitor Covid-19 updates from the province and EMONS, perform monthly fire and life safety inspections and prepare for upcoming training.

This January, the Fire Departments responded to 8 calls and they responded to 21 in January 2020. Here is the data for the month of January:

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BARRINGTON MUNICIPAL FIRE SERVICE							
EMERGENCY CALLS January 2021							
FIRE DEPARTMENT	Fire	Mut	Auto	MFR	MVC	Other	TOTAL
		Aid	Aid				
Barrington/Port La Tour FD						1	1
Island Barrington Passage FD					4	2	6
Woods Harbour/Shag Harbour FD						1	1
TOTALS					4	4	8
B/PLT -							
IBP -							
WH/SH-							

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CAPITAL PROJECT UPATE

Here is an update on our 2020-2021 Capital Projects:

Rank	Project	Status
7	Manhole Cover Repairs	Not Started
14	Former Knowles Property Sewer Lateral	Not Started
1	Recreation Centre	In Progress
2	Beach Facilities	In Progress
13	Municipal Administrative Centre Renovations	In Progress
3	Library Roof Replacement	Completed
4	Barrington Ballfield Fencing Replacement	Completed
5	Cargo Trailer Replacement	Completed
6	Brass Hill Treatment Plant Roof Replacement	Completed
8	Woods Harbour Treatment Plan Fence Replacement	Completed
9	Zero Turn Lawnmower	Completed
10	Fall's Point Road Lift Station Retrofit	Completed
11	Treatment Plant Flow Meters	Completed
12	Portable Toilets	Completed
15	Internet Improvement Project	Completed