

Staff Report December 8, 2020

CAO and Municipal Clerk– Alain Muisse & Lori Murphy

Municipal Administration Building *Council Priority (multiyear)

The building is advancing mostly on schedule, with payments being made out of our capital reserve for progress payments. Hans and I participate in all meetings, and we collectively agree on change orders, based on the recommendations from our architect and project manager. The project remains within budget parameters. As you can observe, the paving and much of the outside work is progressing nicely. While the bridge funding is available to us, at this point we are not borrowing to pay the bills, using internal funds instead. All the FCM requirements are being met.

Affordable and Alternative Housing *Council Priority (multiyear)

The request for expression of interest are set and are being reviewed by a third party for final completion. There are parties interested in the potential development of housing options in Tusket, and Council will have the opportunity to review responses in 2021. The deadline for expression of interest is likely to be January 2021, but that will depend on interest. Power is being brought to the lots and there is a business interest in one of the lots. Our planners will be engaged to offer further advice.

Rural Internet – WREN *Council Priority (multiyear)

No significant update since the announcement of the project.

COVID

Argyle has received safe restart funding of \$240,000 from the Province (federal funding), and awaits accountability requirements. We are compiling information on the costs of COVID. Many of the revenue losses did not occur as we feared, however, we did incur more costs than we anticipated.

With the second phase of the pandemic underway in NS, we have made the decision to close the office to the general public. Work from home options are likely to be re-instated, with learning from the first time we went through it.

Fishing dispute

Tensions on the dispute remain high. The 11 municipal units in the tri-county area have banded together to engage a PR firm to assist us in a collaborative message – supporting safe communities and highlighting the importance of being informed on the ongoing negotiations between the two nations. The work with the PR firm is being coordinated between the Municipality of Clare and Barrington on our collective behalf.

Mariners Center expansion *Council Priority 2019-20

The Mariners Center, as you are aware, was closed for a significant part of 2020 due to COVID. The Center is now reopened with safety protocols in place for COVID-19.

Exp has been engaged and has provided multiple drafts of a potential expansion. Initially our budget estimates were around \$20,000,000. It appears unlikely that the figure will be enough to achieve all of the goals of the expansion. The work is ongoing. We welcomed new members to the group with the changes in leadership with the recent election. We do not have a timeframe for when funding would be available for a project of this magnitude. Much is required locally as well in preparation, including community engagement, fund raising efforts etc. Provincial funding to aid us in planning costs was recently obtained

Bridge to aquatic service

The three municipal units appear committed to restoring a form of service to our community when the timing and pandemic allow this to occur safely. Our current year commitment is \$50,000 and was not specific to the operation of the YMCA, rather it was aimed towards maintaining a service for our residents and the region. A regional committee was also formed to address the bridge of service as this remains a priority of residents.

Yarmouth International Airport Corporation *Council Priority 2019-20

Repairs to runway 06-24 were completed, and the board authorized a purchase of new mowing equipment which will allow for a surplus tractor, which will be sold. The work to engage right sizing work has not yet been completed, work is ongoing.

CAO Muise continues to coordinate board material, and acts in the capacity of manager while the position remains vacant. Offering accounting assistance and other support. Much of the day to day operations is handled by airport staff. With the election comes new members to the board. The Municipality of Argyle has committed to funding until March 2021 and expects to have some progress made on right sizing before this time. All three municipal units are experiencing time constraints due to competing priorities, pandemic, and other issues.

Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission (YAIC)

The Industrial Commission recently had their AGM meeting, and their first meeting of the new board. Redent discussions surrounded policy work around public/private use of the wharves, and other legal issues discussed in camera. The YAIC remains in solid financial standing, but there are capital infrastructure renewal issues still on the books.

Other projects

MLA LeBlanc has contacted the Department of Environment regarding the mosquito issues in Hubbard's Point/Amirault's Hill. We have not received word from the department. LeBlanc and I attended a meeting with a company in Moncton that was

created to control a major mosquito pest issue in that area. The solution put in place there is costly and we could not afford that solution on our own.

Other smaller capital projects of note include the Fire Pond review and safety add-ons. We have received some pushback from some of the property owners on our project. We are reassessing the order of work, while trying to manage costs. One of the fire ponds in Wedgeport has been made safe thanks to help from TIR. The objective is to address the safety issues of the ponds that are owned publicly first. All locations will have signage added to them to warn of potential safety hazards.

Comeau's Hill Wharf – the project has been approved by the previous council, and funds earmarked for the repairs.

COMFIT solar – The final component of your approved COMFIT solar project appears delayed due to NS Power inactivity. The project may be modified to be smaller, both in our investment and in net profits as a consequence of the undue delays. This project is being well led by Aaron Long and an organization named AREA, who specializes in renewable energy projects, among others. The Wedgeport Fire Station will be the recipient of a solar panel addition on their roof. Currently, we are earning revenues from both West Pubnico locations.

Access to sustainable water systems is a project that has increased interest in our communities. We are in contact with EMO NS as it appears they are re-energized in a long term solution. We had a productive first meeting with them (Janine and Alain Muisse). We requested to obtain financial information from the Province regarding their current funding levels, to determine if we could use that funding in a better way in the interest of a longer term solution (vs providing drinking water to us). As mentioned earlier, the Comeau's Hill drilled wells were determined to be impractical. See the request for decision on Eel Brook Fire Station.

Provincial Work, AMA and other

REMO work has been ongoing since March of 2020 with droughts and pandemic. Janine has drafted a new REMO bylaw that requires CAO feedback before coming to Council.

Policy work is ongoing, with changes to Code of conduct for council and staff, Progressive discipline, travel and other HR policies. The HR policies are receiving feedback from staff prior to being approved by Council.

I am engaged in discussions with the Musee and Village and have agreed to assist them to understand their current financial situation, and the potential of a merger between the two organizations. The discussions are preliminary, and they are engaging a third-party consultant to aid them in their work.

I attend ADA meetings with Alix and Charlene (aquaculture).

We are in the process of revamping our newsletter, new and improved, to provide more regular and relevant information to our residents. As well, we have been building a new web site through AMANS, this project has been underway for some time.

The 2020 election is over, and it appears that, all in all, it was successful from a coordination standpoint. As you are well aware, staff and I have engaged in orientation sessions, preparing packages for all of you. Regardless of new councilor or seasoned, there are always learning opportunities, and we hope the discussions and training were helpful, and that the new councilors feel welcomed.

Coaching sessions have been organized for myself, as a foundation and first step for work to strengthen our staff as an effective and collaborative team.

AMA and NSFM meetings have all occurred using zoom, and I have attended most of them. AMA priority session will take place on December 14th.

Finance Department- Marsha d'Eon

Work is continually being done on our annual Tax Sale which will be held on Thursday, February 11, 2021. Registered letters have been mailed and 12 Tax Sale notices will be posted on residential properties. The first ad will be in the Vanguard on January 6, 2021.

37 well loan agreements have been signed so far this year, 35 of them since July. I also have 1 or 2 more waiting to be signed next week. We have currently used up approximately \$450,000 of council's approved \$500,000 thus far. This number is only an estimate as I still have roughly 15 applicants waiting to have their well drilled or dug, therefore still waiting for their final invoice.

All other services, including monthly reconciliations, accounts payable, and monthly financial reporting to staff and Council continues and is on schedule.

Council Report Public Works and Development (Hans, Louis, John)

West Pubnico Sewer Treatment Plant (WPSTP)

Plant Operations

The plant operates at a high level of efficiency and is compliant with NSDoE guidelines. The Covid - 19 pandemic did not affect our operation too much and we had increased our safety procedures to protect staff and infrastructure. Over the last two months we experienced a pressure pipe break down along Rock Road and were able to repair the leak immediately. We investigated nearby wells for potential contamination after receiving calls from a resident with concerns about their well. It turned out the break of the sewer pipe and the well concerns were not related and we helped the resident with resources and information on how to resolve their issue nevertheless. The recent rain event (100mm over 24hrs) did no harm to our system and we had the chance to study parts of the system in action with the goal to improve the Pump station #5 at the Red Cap

Restaurant. This data collection and better understanding the set up of the sewer system will be very helpful to make repairs and improvements to minimize risks in the future. We also hired an Engineer from Dillon Consulting to support our efforts on improving the PS#5 and surrounding Manholes situation with the goal to minimize the overflow risk at this location.

The new prototype mixer at the plant is being installed and we are expecting operations within the next few weeks, the local supplier is currently busy with our local fishermen and getting their gear ready for dumping day.

All 12 pumping stations are being monitored on a regular interval everything seems to work normal. NS Power is continuing with their meter upgrade program and more pump stations have been upgraded. This work will continue over the next few months.

We experienced some difficulties during the tendering process for the new dewatering machine and had to re-tender in order to get all information on time and within compliance of the RFP call. We are happy to announce that we selected Trident Processes Inc. and their Multi Disk Screw Press and started the process of confirming the last few details to get the production on the machine started. Staff is now in the process of sourcing a trailer and conveyor to complete the operational set up. This dewatering technology had been tested in our plant in March and performed outstanding. Installation and start up training is scheduled for April 2021. We are also in the process of amending our NSE operational permit to address the change and improvement on our process.

This month we didn't come across any sewer connections but are working with a developer to upgrade a lateral on Franks road to allow for a multi-unit development connection. We hired Amiro & Surette to perform the installation and work is scheduled to be completed before Christmas.

Past Initiatives

We are happy to report that the Solar system at the West Pubnico Sewer plant is working great and we are monitoring the production closely. Under this program we are selling 100% of the solar energy back to NS Power and this installation will generate some revenue for the Municipality.

Future Initiatives

We received quotes for remote monitoring equipment for the pump stations in West Pubnico. Goal was to upgrade at least pump stations with this equipment but we experienced breakdowns and have higher priorities to deal with. Due to the high costs we decided to hold off with this initiative and discuss these options with the sewer committee for the next fiscal year.

Tusket Sewer Treatment Plant

Plant Operations

The operation of this system continues in a relatively orderly basis, with our permit good until 2024. We noticed an increase in our total solid values in our outfall samples due to issues with all 4 sand filter beds at the Plant. We are currently not in compliance with NSDoE operating parameters and had notified the local NSDoE office about the issue. We also engaged an Engineer from CBCL as soon as we noticed the issue. The engineer performed a series of tests and took samples of our waste water. It turned out this was an unusual reaction to this type of sewer system and we are still waiting to hear back on recommendation on how to fix the issue. With increased rain events the issue is getting less intense and our values are within normal parameters again. We are still closely monitoring our system by increased pump cleanings, filter cleaning and sand filter bed flushing. The recent rain event showed us a few more minor trouble shooting areas and staff is working on resolving the issues to improve the system step by step to minimize overflows and other risks.

Staff is completed the annual tank cleaning work and all units have been serviced.

The Tuskett Falls Brewery on site system for the brewing water disposal had some issues due to incorrect operation by the brewery. We had hired Amiro & Surette Trucking to repair the field bed in accordance with recommendations from the Engineering company. We increased our monitoring efforts as required by the operation and maintenance recommendations by the Engineer. The last few tests came back very positive and total solid values are below operations standards. Brewery staff increased their side streaming significantly and improved operation. Unfortunately, we noticed another overflow of the sand filter bed and it failed again after 3 months operation. We are working diligently to solve the issue and are looking to engage different opinions as well.

We did not received any new connection request and our new admin building is connected now.

With the development of the new road extension in Tuskett, we finished the work and extended the sewer main line by 300m and offer 7 new connection spots along that new section.

Past Initiatives

The Mission Communication Module is working well for us and we are collecting valuable data each day and noticed reduced overtime on monitoring and troubleshooting of the plant and pump station already.

Future Initiatives

CBCL completed the design of a commercial grease interceptor for the Hatfield House Restaurant, unfortunately the COVID - 19 pandemic had a very negative effect on the restaurant business in our area and the Hatfield Restaurant closed its doors before we could install the grease trap. This initiative is on hold until we know more about the future of this property.

We have similar issues with another restaurant and are working with the owner to find a viable option.

East Pubnico Water Utility

System Operations

Staff continues to monitor and make repairs as necessary. Meter readings are performed on a regular basis. The Popes Road Well is performing better now and the contractor is done with the remaining upgrades. Over the last few months, we received funding from ACOA to perform upgrades on the Middle East Pubnico system along Willet Road. We hired WSP Canada Inc. to support us with designs and equipment specifications to upgrade both wells with new pumps, plumbing, electrical panels, soft start systems and metering equipment. We are also aiming on repairing pressure relieve valves and all other shut off valves along this system. We also hired another water tank specialist to assess the remaining life expectancy on the Willet Road water tank. The assessment work was completed and we are working through the report to better understand the findings. Staff is eagerly working on sourcing equipment and gear for the improvement job and is preparing a public tender process for the installation in 2021. We are playing in active role in the project with the goal to shorten waiting times for equipment and run multiple stages of the project simultaneously. Goal is to improve the system so far that we can operate it remotely and have technology support us with trouble shooting and alarm call outs for a better maintenance response.

Past Initiatives

The well assessment was completed and revealed excellent data in order to continue with funding applications.

Future Initiatives

With the ACOA funding in place we are working on solutions to improve the production and distribution systems and then focus on the Water Storage Tank once we receive the assessment report and recommendations. There may be a chance to postpone the replacement of the tank by another 10-15 years possibly. This would give us more time to prepare a better asset management plan to replace the tank and have proper funding in place.

Wedgeport Sewer Improvement Program

System Operations

All 42 systems are running smoothly. No issues to be reported.

We are working diligently on getting 50 residents signed up for the new phase and have selected EXP Services Inc to support us with investigations, designs and installation review services. Currently we have over 40 residents signed up and are still looking to find 5-10 more. With the pandemic flaring up again in the larger urban areas of the province we changed the game plan a bit in order to stay on top of the schedule. Goal is to initiate the tendering and installation process in the Spring 2021 and have this project completed by November 2021.

Past Initiatives

42 Systems have been installed and are operational. All landscaping issues have been addressed and the sites are starting to look normal again. We had received federal and provincial funding for a second round and have room for another 50 units.

Future Initiatives

Complete the current phase by November 2021.

Municipal Administration Building

We are actively engaged in the project and are supporting all involved parties with material selection, site clarifications, financial project claims and other upcoming questions. Garian Construction is the lead contractor and they are managing the project well to stay on schedule to move into the new building by June 2021. We appreciate staff's engagement during the project with all kinds of material and color selection questions. We also organized another walk through tour of the building after the it was made weather tight and interior walls started to shape the inside more and more. It gave staff and council a great impression of the layout and space they will be taking over soon.

Tusket New Road Development

The new road in Tusket is substantially completed and the final touch will be done in the spring 2021. It is now known as Rue JE Hatfield Court. NS Power is working on the installation of the power lines and things are starting to come together.

The stormwater pond was successfully installed and proved to be working well. Further planting improvements will be performed by our own staff next year.

Policy and By-Law Working Group

During the pandemic isolation time we had the chance to revise a few policies and are working on a revised overtime policy and other personal policies for internal procedure improvements. We also had the time to engage a legal team and have our SOT process reviewed and submitted a cleaned up version to the provincial department of Justice. We already received feedback from the province and are sorting out the last few concerns. Further by-law and policy changes may be needed to get the SOT's approved and activated. This could help us with the enforcement of several by-laws and increase our options on how to respond to certain situations.

We also successfully updated Overtime policy to better assist staff with clarification on this topic. Any questions on this policy can be directed to the Director of Public Works (Hans).

The municipal clerk is working on several staff policies regarding code of conduct, progressive discipline and other guiding rules to better guide and protect staff and the organization in case of any questions or concerns.

Planning Department / GIS Work

Alix is actively working on the following projects and initiatives:

- Update dates on MPS and LUB Maps to make them final for the website
- Continuing ADA Meetings
- Regular and ongoing civic addressing maintenance
- Created many signs for Ginette and Natalie (East Pubnico Bike Park and biking routes)
- Mapping drought-affected residents
- Updated MapSearch with new zoning
- Meetings for two drought planning groups (Dalhousie and NSCC)
- Created lists of civic addresses per fire district for them to check all civic signs
- Completed my role as Election Auditor for Municipal Elections
- Filming for Fisheries and Aquaculture to promote our work on the ADA
- Assisted CMAR in replacing a wind/wave sensor off Abbott's Harbour
- Updated a school name for school district maps for CSAP

The new Land Use By-Law was adopted by council in July of 2020 and went into effect (effective date) November 2020. MODA has engaged WSP to handle all our planning issues on a contract basis for the immediate future. The adoption of the new LUB is the trigger for mapping updates and renaming of existing development zones, which is being handled by Alix.

Animal Control

SPCA is handling all of our domestic animal complaints and they had a few calls without major issues. With the loss of the Yarmouth Dispatch center we also lost the service for dog control issues. The SPCA can be directly reached under 902-307-0475 in case of any dog issues.

No other animal complaints were filed.

Garbage Handling

We successfully renewed our Solid Waste Collection contract and operation continues without major changes. We are working with Wastecheck on a few garbage complaints and optimized the Fall and Spring clean up routes with the Pick up contractor.

After recent discussion with the current contractor we started to receive all rejection notifications and are keeping track of residents that are not properly disposing their waste. WasteCheck and the Collection contractor have increased their activities in checking green bins for plastics due to severe issues at the composting facility. This will avoid cost increases due to fines.

All other collection activities are running as per schedule and weather permitted delays are being handled on time.

Building Inspection Report

To date, in this year's building season, staff have issued 129 Building Permits. Staff has also issued 109 development permits. Notes: a Demolition Permit is tallied under the Building Permit numbers and the adoption of the new LUB require all development

within the municipality to start with a Development Permit. We have provided background information for several possible rezoning inquiries. 8 letter for Zoning Confirmations have also been issued.

Fire Inspections

We are happy to report that Tara Owen started her training to become our new Fire Inspector. She is currently mentored by the Inspector from the Municipality of Barrington and is making good progress in her training.

Sub-Division Activity

We have a total of 19 sub-division files so far in 2020. The type of subdivision, be it Instrument of Subdivision or Final Plan of Subdivision, is pretty well equal. There are no large multi lot subdivisions on the books, as the majority of activity, is 2-3 lot subdivisions or consolidation of existing lots. One large subdivision created last calendar year has been expanding, both in lot count and building development. Substantial economic gains for the municipality have been generated by this development.

Unsightly or Dangerous

Over the last few months, we were able to resolve a series of cases and are focusing on the severe situation first. The noise complaint situations have died down and we are still following up on one of the cases. Our staff was diligently working on a few dangerous situations and resolved demolition by the owner quickly. A few residents were able to clean up their properties as soon as the landfill was open again and others we had to enforce.

We had to enforce another clean up at one property, which was cleaned up before in 2018 and had fallen in despair again so quickly. The clean up was performed within a day and we managed to remove over 6 tons of waste material.

The new dangerous and unsightly policy is active now and some residents are starting their applications.

Maintenance

Staff was handling the pandemic with confidence and was very active in the production of our health and safety procedures. It kind of gave us time to catch up with a lot of repair work on some ball fields and other infrastructure. We improved some of our vehicles to have a better workflow and less lifting procedures during the day. We are trying to finish up the outstanding projects and our seasonal staff was sent off with a lot of gratitude and appreciation.

During a routine garbage pick up run at the Tusket car park we experienced a minor accident with potential for serious long term health effects due to contamination with high contagious illnesses. The affected Staff went into treatment immediately and is still affected by the side effects of the strong medication. We would like to highlight the importance of job safety and being cautious around all tasks in your daily work. Even if it appears to be an easy task, be aware of the risks.

Industrial Park

We continue to receive requests from interested buyers for the remaining lots. It appears that the medicinal processing plant will proceed and we are available to support the owner with the sewer connection requirements. The Tusket Falls Brewery is reviewing their chances on re-zoning their lot and are looking into a possible food serving use. We still have 2 lots available for sale.

Staff

Marty successfully passed his examination and is now a certified Wastewater Level 1 Operator!

Tara started her Fire Inspector training and will be done very soon.

Together with the CAO we were working on restructuring the department to improve workflow and the application of our talented staff. We are happy to announce that Louis Boudreau is now our Supervisor for Facilities and Water and is managing the operational side of the department for water, waste water and facilities, reporting to the CAO.

Hans will remain as Director of Public Works and will add the Development side to it. His focus will be on capital projects, procurement, asset management and By-Law Enforcement.

Software

At present all software is up to date and working well for us. In the winter months of 2021 software functions will be reviewed and updated for the building permit, fire inspection and development permit functions. Changes to applicable Nova Scotia Codes make these changes necessary.

Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee

The Municipality Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee had paused shortly with the outbreak of the pandemic but resumed very quickly after and released a series of work safe procedures and guidelines to ensure the safety of all staff. We are meeting on a monthly basis and renewed our program as required on an annual basis.

Staff is moving along good with the establishment of certain work safe procedures that are needed for a variety of special tasks and that are not covered by national standards. We are also making immediate changes and improvements to tasks that create a high risk or have resulted in injuries.

Any safety related issues should be reported immediately to your supervisor or committee member!

Miscellaneous

1. The event hosted by the Wedgeport Legion on September 12th, 2020 in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII and liberation of Holland during that war was a big success and staff actively supported the legion with the set up and take down of the gear for the event. We continue to maintain the

established planting beds for the visual improvements of the Tusket Cenotaph area.

Community Development Officer Report-Charlene LeBlanc

September 4, 2020 – Dec 3, 2020

- Meeting regularly with Dalhousie's MWB teams (Management without Borders) on the drought project. This year we have two teams working to bring us reports by mid-December.
- Preparing a Power Point Presentation for council meeting Dec 8th.
- Recently attended a virtual National Eel Grass Task Force.
- Making changes/updates to www.aquacultureargyle.com
- Met with committees of the ADA (Aquaculture Development Area)
- Alix and I presented the ADA project to the WREN, YASTA, NS Bird Society and to fisherman Jim Conrad.
- Updated executives from Brazil Rock Association and Cold Water Association on the ADA and asked to present the ADA project to them. Sent them a one pager on the ADA.
- Hosted a luncheon meeting with Nic Fieldsend and General Public Media. It was to bring stakeholders together to discuss the ADA.
- Alix and I traveled on the water with a team from General Public Media. They were producing video segment to show us at work and promote the role of NS fisheries and Aquaculture dept.
- Was invited to observe/aid with the deployment of seeded sugar kelp lines in Arichat harbour with Merinov in late November. Due to Covid cases increasing, I had to decline. I do have information however. The harvesting will take place in June. This is a special project by AANS (Aquaculture Association of NS)
- Met "A for Adventure" and saw them off to the Tusket Islands for filming for the Nature Trust.
- Attended regular meetings: Starlight, WREN, YASTA, Tri-Co Housing Coalition, and the CMA (Congrès Mondiale 2024)
- Shared with landlords the details of the "Win this Space" contest.
- Participated in a MELG (Mun Energy Learning group) Workshop on the topic of Retscreening
- Assisting a new local business and a community space with accessibility funding
- Supported the small business week along with CBDC, MODY and Town of Yarmouth
- Attended a CDDI (Commercial Dev District Improvement) presentation at the Hebron complex
- Attended a seminar given by Nova Scotia Environment on Rural Water Watch
- Attended a Grant Thornton webinar re: Tax Rebate Program for Tourism Accommodations and shared that information with those who qualify.

- Met with Larry Peach to work on a new Acadian Interpretive Tour brochure and signs
- Attended a webinar by Engage NS on the topic of Quality of Life

Court House & Archives – HDO & Archivist Report - Judy Frotten

Tusket River Project – In early Nov. fall student Kaitlyn Cosman (hired by YCW – CMA, Sep.28-Dec.31) launched social media aspect of our collaborative project with Francine Dulong of Blooming Ludus. She started a new FB page “Tusket River Reminiscing” and created videos/posts. This stage of the project is community engagement – asking the public to share memories, photos, etc. with the aim to create a virtual exhibit this winter. If further funding can be secured in 2021, we will work with Francine towards the next phase of the project.

PADP Project – Peter Crowell’s work as contract archivist for the **Municipality of the District of Argyle 2000-2010 records processing project** is progressing smoothly. This project will continue until February 2021.

SWNS Curators Group meeting – Judy attended the bi-annual regional meeting via Zoom on Nov. 20th.

JOHSC – Judy attended Oct. 27 meeting and will attend Dec. 8. She also attended “Back to Work” working group meeting on Nov. 24.

Wellness Committee Meetings – Kaitlin has been attending meetings and assisting at events this fall.

ANSM – We have been taking advantage of the many virtual offerings by Association of NS Museums (ANSM). Judy and Kaitlin attended Museum Evaluation Program (MEP) orientation refresher on Nov. 10. Judy attended “Deep Dive” on Marketing and Fundraising, on Nov. 13th and will attend “Accreditation” on Dec. 10, and also attended “Community Connection” session for museums across NS on Nov. 23.

Strategic Plan – Judy and Kaitlin are assisting the Historical Society (AMHGS) with the development of a new Strategic Plan for the Society. The “Policies Committee” met on several occasions this fall. ATCHA staff will continue supporting their efforts in developing this document, which is crucial to AMHGS & the 2021 Evaluation.

Board & Council Orientation – Jennifer Surette & Judy conducted Board Orientation for (new) Historical Society Board members on Nov. 12th. The same day, we introduced ATCHA staff (Judy and Kaitlin) to Council.

Christmas Events – We partnered up with MODA (Ginette d’Entremont – Rec.) again this year to plan our annual Christmas Tree Lighting Event at the Court House & Archives. Unfortunately, the rapid rise in Covid-19 cases in the province shortly before the event caused us to cancel the ceremony, in an effort to keep everyone safe. Rather than focus on the ceremony, we lit the tree and encouraged residents to enjoy all the lit trees throughout the Municipality, within their own family bubbles.

ATCHA also partnered up with Ginette for the Seniors’ Christmas “take-out” lunch on Dec. 3. We provided masks from Patchwork Pals as a small gift for each senior. This is a fundraiser for them, and we wanted to support this non-profit organization as they have helped AMHGS several times in the past by donating quilts to raffle.

Archives – We’ve received several archival donations and many research requests, which have been keeping Kaitlin busy in the past few weeks.

The Argus – Judy and Kaitlin have completed the editing of the double 66-page issue for fall/winter, and the Editorial Designer is making the last edits and then it will be sent to the printer. It will be dependent on others (volunteers/printer) if this can be delivered in Dec. ***The Argus is our most important program – it preserves Argyle history and maintains that Argyle connection: with locals, and folks living across Canada and the US.*** AMHGS normally maintains a membership of @500 but this year is about 440 – a result of Covid-19 restricting visitors over the tourist season. Memberships costs \$30/year for individual or \$35 for a couple or family – and they make a great Christmas gift! We also have a great selection of local interest and historical books (no tax) & we accept cash/Debit/Visa/MC. For more info, contact us: jfrotten@argylecourthouse.com or 902-648-2493.

Merry Christmas to MODA Council and Staff – We look forward to working with you in 2021! Stay safe.

Director of Programming and Active Living -Ginette d'Entremont

Halloween

Due to Covid, we were unable to offer our Halloween pumpkin decorating event, however, we did offer pumpkins and decorating kits for children ages 12 and younger. We gave out close to 60 pumpkins and kits.

We also did a Halloween Trail Hunt at the Pubnico Point Trail as well as the Roche a St. Pierre in Comeau's Hill. Both trails were decorated with Halloween décor and the children had a treasure chest to find and take a treat.

Athletic Awards Banquet

Due to Covid, we decided to post-pone the event for this year. We had attempted to honor the special award recipients, however, we did not receive many nominations and felt that it was best to put it aside for now.

Senior events/activities

We put together 3 different activity kits for seniors to receive free of charge if they were interested. We posted the information on Facebook as well as contacted the senior clubs personally. We gave away 118 kits. It was a big hit!

We offered a takeout lunch (rappie pie) for seniors on December 3, 2020 to replace the Christmas party we usually have for them. Seniors were to reserve a meal by phoning the Recreation Department. We gave out 120 meals.

Christmas tree lighting ceremonies

The municipal tree lighting will take place on Thursday November 26th at 6pm at the Argyle Archives. I put together a funding application for local organizations to request funding if they are interested in setting up a tree in their community. The councilors were involved in contacting their local organizations. We received 12 applications for a

total of \$4162.33 given out to decorate the Christmas trees. This was to encourage community pride as well as to try to spread out the number of individuals attending tree lighting ceremonies. There are 13 trees in total which includes our own Municipal tree at the Archives.

School partnerships

I was asked and agreed to sit on the CEC of École Belleville as a community member. The advisory committee currently meets once a month through Zoom.

After the Bell

I have started the After the Bell program for girls in grades 7-9 at École secondaire de Par-en-Bas. For now, we will be offering 4 sessions before the end of the year. We have access to the school, however, only allowed to use the gym and the washrooms. At this time, we will not be able to show the girls how to cook healthy eating options as we do not have access to the Home Economics room. We will continue the program in the winter months if we continue to have access to the school.

Parc des Jeunes

I have applied for funding through the Community Health Board to make changes to the Parc des Jeunes playground in Wedgeport so that it becomes accessible and inclusive to all. The changes would include placing engineered wood fibers in the play areas, installing ramps to get to the play areas, and installing two high back swings.

Professional development

I participated in webinar sessions on Access and Inclusion throughout the month of October. The topics discussed during these sessions were Accessible Trails, Accessible Playgrounds, and Welcoming Environments & Experiences.

I participated in Lunch and Learn sessions in November through Recreation Nova Scotia. The topics discussed were Inclusion Policy Development, Recognition is Worthless – Appreciation is Everything, Landowner Liability & Outdoor Recreation, and Retaining Girls in Sport & Recreation.

I attended a PAPE (Physical activity practitioners exchange) session on December 1st, and the topic of discussion was “Make your Move” campaign.

Argyle e-Newsletter

I have been asked to assist with the development of an Argyle e-Newsletter. The first edition will come out in January 2021.

Senior Safety Coordinators Report – Peggy Boudreau

Overall Clients to date: Municipality of Argyle: 587 Municipality of Yarmouth: 365

New Clients for the Month of October: 4

Visits Overall to Date: 9186

Month of September: 230 Home Revisits: 85 Telephone Revisits: 145

Advocacy Letters written to Community Partners: 0

Referrals:

Referrals from RCMP to Date: 162 Month: 3

Referrals to RCMP to Date: 79 Month: 2

Outstanding Referrals to Date: 46 Month: 0

Town of Yarmouth Referrals: 236 Month: 4

Referrals to Other Agencies:

To Date:

Housing: Referrals: 92 Placements: 21 Month: 2

Continuing Care & Home Care: 226 Month: 2

Adult Protection: 101 Month: 3

Nursing Home/Boarding Home Placement from clients list: 50 Month: 1

Vial of Life Completed:

Month of October: 50

High Risk Active Files:

New Month of October: 4 MODA: 12 Overall High Risk: 230
MODY: 14

Community Presentations:

Oct. 21- Library Presentation on Frauds and Scams 8 in attendance

Oct. 23- 2nd Chance Seniors Club presentation, 20 in attendance

Meetings Attended:

Oct. 5- Department of Seniors Conf. Call

Oct. 6- Mtg with Dean and Vicki to establish voting video

Oct. 7- Meeting with Yarmouth Rec & Community Partner

Oct. 13- Department of Seniors Conf. Call

Oct. 15- Mtg. with Yarmouth Library

Oct. 19- SSC Zoom mtg.

Oct. 20- Alzheimer's NS Conf.

Oct. 22- Meeting with Yarmouth Rec & Community Partner

Oct. 29- Meeting with Yarmouth Rec re: Christmas collaboration

MODA

Helped 10 Clients vote in Home

MODA JOHS meeting

Help Senior Safety Coordinator municipality of Clare with two AP clients.
Meeting with hospital social workers re high risk clients.

Other:

October 8, 14 and 16th there were voting kiosks in the 3 Senior Housing Complexes for
MODY.