

Council Report for October 2021

CAO and Municipal Clerk– Alain Muise & Eilidh Canning

Affordable and Alternative Housing *Council Priority (multiyear)

Nothing significant to report. Our planner has made a number of recommendations to move forward.

Rural Internet – WREN *Council Priority (multiyear)

The agreement is executed as per Council's approval, nothing else to report.

Wedgeport Wastewater project

Kyle Boudreau, Kim Rowley and Eilidh Canning participated in a Teams call with Stacey Muise of EXP Engineering on Friday, November 5th. The project will start field work throughout November and December and start construction work late Spring 2022. The completion is anticipated to complete in Q4 of 2022. Kim Rowley is drafting a letter to the 48 applicants with an update and these letters will be mailed the week of November 8th, 2021. As stated in our last staff report, the funding is not impacted by the delay.

ACOA funding applications

The 2 applications for funding submitted for our trails and for the Hipson Bridge. There were some questions from ACOA regarding our application, and Charlene LeBlanc is working with ACOA and staff to answer these questions.

Municipal Innovation Program

A small group of 3 CAO's met to discuss the RFP for regional planning services. This work is generally on schedule, but there is a concern that there will be issues in finding the appropriate firm to do the work, as COVID has significantly impacted workloads in this industry.

Bylaw Complaints

Received three complaints as Bylaw enforcement officer, two of which are regarding an ongoing noise and unsightly complaint. A new complaint was received on a property in Tuskent. Correspondence and contact shall be made this week. With the infilling of the Bylaw enforcement officer position, a more comprehensive report shall be presented to council. The noise complaint was managed by the RCMP.

Other Miscellaneous Work

- Policies that are on the list include Traffic Calming, Violence in the Workplace and other HR policies. Eilidh is leading this work.

- Bylaw work includes updating current policies as well as drafting the Private Road Bylaw, which Eilidh is leading.
- Eilidh is working with WSP on amending the existing Active Transportation Plan. Community engagement on this work is set to begin in January 2022. Currently, WSP is collecting data, and creating schedules for the work that is anticipated to occur.
- The Fire Inspection/Bylaw Enforcement position has been filled by Mitch Colburn, and his documentation has been sent into the province in order to become a designated official.
- Heat Pellets – Nothing significant to report on this presentation.
- SOT registration and changes to bylaws have been received, no action on this item yet. This project is led by me.
- Nuisance and noise policy work has stalled, with concerns around enforceability are being analysed. It was determined that a lighting nuisance policy should be its own policy. Along with Charlene and Scott, approved documentation on lighting regulations for new development.

Western REN

- Working with the CEO to assess funding opportunities for energy reduction for the airport, early stages of discussion. The WREN has a funding program to aid in reducing energy use as part of their strategic priority.

Drought and REMO

- REMO passed a motion supporting a drought response plan, and participated in the most recent meeting where we discussed the role and responsibility of Fire Departments and droughts.

Finance Department- Marsha d'Eon

Work on the Tax Sale is on going. 46 Tax Sale notices have been mailed out for the February 15th, 2022 tax sale. Bonnie continues the work on getting payment arrangements and/or preauthorized payments for tax sale properties, especially the few homes that are on the list.

The six-month redemption period has past for last year's tax sale and Bonnie is currently preparing to register the 21 tax deeds.

The Financial Information Return (FIR) has just been released by the province last week. This report will be completed and submitted to the province by November 24, 2021.

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

Community Development Officer Report – Charlene LeBlanc

1. Working on décor for the November 16th Grand Opening
2. Met with West Side Improvement Society after receiving the Streetscaping grant for their project of banners and brackets.
3. We will be hosting space for a Homewarming Clinic for homeowners, on December 2nd and will share details as the time approaches.
4. Met with Public Works and DFO re: answer ACOA questions re: Hipson Bridge
5. TMAC (Travel Media Association of Canada) is coming to Yarmouth for a conference in 2022. I have volunteered to be on 2 committees: Tours & Dine Around, and also the Welcome Reception, the Showcase Dinner & the Gala.
6. Printed Welcome Guides (WREN product) and introduced a “Good Neighbour Project” for councillors to use to welcome newcomers to their communities.
7. Met with Vaugne Madden (CMA 2024). She will be in our office on Wednesdays until January.
8. Assisted with the Small Business Week Oct 17 to 22nd social media campaign.
9. I have been participating in a 4 session Aquila Workshop (cruise readiness)
10. The Coldest Months aid directory was completed and shared with council
11. Met with both MWB Dalhousie groups a couple times to get their project updates and answer questions.
12. Hosted the regular YASTA meeting in our new board room.
13. Took in a webinar re: funding called Low Carbon Communities
14. Met with Pubnico councillors re: Highway 103 Community Identity Sign Project and had a good conversation with TIR afterwards.
15. Attended the session with Kathy Jourdain re: Values
16. Submitted information for the newsletter.
17. Posting to the “Aquaculture in Argyle” Facebook page
18. Attended the Dr Recruitment meeting in October.
19. The Aquaculture Development Area is in its very final stage. All our work is completed.
20. Attended the WREN Economic Recovery meeting
21. Assisting a vaccine pop-up clinic with mobile internet service
22. Did data collection for local oyster company.

ATCHA – Heritage Development Officer Report for Council – Judy Frotten

Court House & Gaol Museum – Closed for the season on Oct. 29th. Fall guide Bradley d’Entremont finished his work term same day.

Fall Events – Judy worked with Ginette (Active Living) again this year to host our first Halloween Trail Walk on Oct. 28, which was a success. The outdoor venue was safer during the pandemic but meant weather was a factor, so the event was held a day later than originally planned due to inclement weather. We received positive feedback from participants and had no issues with asking

for proof of vaccination, though we lost a couple of volunteers as a result. We had @10 volunteers, including Councillors and AMHGS Board members. Thanks to everyone who helped make it happen!

Judy and Ginette have started planning the annual Christmas Tree lighting ceremony (stay tuned for details).

Funding Extension – Young Canada Works has provided us with up to 85% funding for an additional @184 hours so that we could hire Karlee Muise as Museum Assistant on a part time basis, from Sept. 7/21 until Feb. 11/22. Karlee is wrapping up the “Cell” Gift Shop for the season, working on ATCHA’s social media channels, and assisting with new school programming development (which aligns well with her studies-she is working towards a degree in education).

Court House capital projects – We’ve received quotes to rectify the water situation at the Court House by connecting to the drilled well at the Archives building (owned by Argyle Municipality Historical & Genealogical Society). The work should be moving forward in the near future, along with the legal documents between MODA & AMHGS. We are still working on information gathering for the roof and windows at the Court House for projects slated for next fiscal period.

LAMNS (Libraries, Archives & Museums Nova Scotia) 2021 Joint Conference – Judy attended the virtual conference “Moving Forward Together” on Oct. 21-23, attending many sessions throughout the 3-day period.

Professional Development – Judy and Phil participated in Kathy Jourdain’s “High Performance Teams and Communications Training” at MODA on Oct. 18. Phil also took the CNSA (Council of NS Archives) virtual workshop, “Access, Reference & Outreach” (Oct. 25-27) as part of their core curriculum. Certificate will be issued upon successful completion of the assignment.

SouthWest Nova Scotia Curator’s Group Meeting – Judy will attend the fall 2021 regional curators’ group meeting on November 5/21, changed to virtual format once again.

The Argus – Summer issue was distributed to members in October, and Judy and Phil have been working on the Fall/Winter issue for a few weeks. The printer Paul Comeau has retired so we will need to find another way of printing the quarterly publication.

AMHGS Board – Judy attended the Society’s meeting on Oct. 19. The Annual General Meeting will be held virtually Nov. 16/21 at 6:30pm. Public is invited to attend. Contact us to register: 902-648-2493 or jfrotten@argylecourthouse.com. “Regular” board meetings will resume in Jan 2022.

MODA Meetings – During October, Judy attended JOHSC and CORE Group meetings and Phil attended Wellness and Christmas committee meetings.

Archives Re-organization – Thanks to “new to us” furniture from the old MODA admin building, we have been doing a re-organization of the research room, “Bourg-Bourque” room upstairs and

the lunchroom/overflow library area in the basement. We thank the Property Dept. and other staff for assisting us with moving many of those items.

MEP Report card – We submitted a 4-page response to ANSM regarding our Museum Evaluation Program “Report Card” addressing various points, which will be taken into consideration and could potentially affect our scoring in some cases. Museums were given until Oct. 8 to respond to the report. ANSM has experienced unexpected delays but have indicated will respond as soon as they can. We are using the report along with the Society’s Strategic Plan (2021-2025) to focus our work over the next 4-5 yrs, as we continue to improve our facility and offerings.

Director of Recreation Services – Scott Surette

Multi – Sports Camp

We are currently in our last weeks of Multi Sports Camp. The next sport will be Curling at the Yarmouth Curling Club. Here are the dates for the next curling sessions November 9 and 18.

Glenwood Park Improvement Project

We finally received confirmation that the Special Place (Government) approved our last report done by the Archeologist firm. Therefore, we proceeded with the recommendations of the report to have more site test done. These tests were done 2 weeks ago, and it was reported to me by the archeologist that “We did not identify any areas of additional cultural concern”. We are hoping this will be the end of the red tape for these projects. The Archaeological firm will provide us another report in the next few days for us to review. Once approved by the Municipality this will be forwarded to the Special Place for approval. Once approval is given by the province, we should be ready to continue with our projects at the Glenwood Park.

We are also in discussion with Garian Construction to do an engineered drawing for the boat launch and swimming area which is needed for DNR.

Drop in Events

Pickleball (18+) continues at Plymouth School every Monday at 7pm to 8:30pm and in Ecole Pubnico Ouest every Wednesday from 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Badminton (12+) has started at Ecole Wedgeport every Friday from 6:30pm to 8:00pm

Dodgeball (Grades 3 to 6) will start in Ecole Pubnico Ouest on Thursday November 18 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm.

Plymouth School Multi-Purpose Court

I am presently working with the school to do upgrades on the multi-purpose court at Plymouth school. The school has asked if we can assist in removing the brushes around the fence and see if we can assist in painting the surface. We are currently waiting for a quote for the cost to repaint the surface. The Municipality will try to assist with the removal of the brush around the fence.

West Pubnico Golf Club

I continue to have discussions with the club and other organization such as Sports Nova Scotia and Dept of Community Culture and Heritage to assist in organizing a junior golf program. The club is also looking to expand their women program and may introduce fling golf next year. We are currently trying to help in assisting the club to get funding for these programs. I have submitted a grant to the Community Health Board for some funding.

Other Meetings Attended

- Oct 12 – Meeting with Clyde Deviller (Community Health Board)
- Oct 12 – Meeting with Anna Haanstra (CCH) and Nicole Kenney (Sports NS)
- Oct 13 – Meeting with Anna Haanstra – Community Use Agreement
- Oct 18 – High Performance training
- Oct 25 – Starlight Meeting/ Core Meeting
- Oct 27 – Meeting with Mike MacDonald (Eastlink) /Mariner Center Expansion
- Nov 2 – Meeting with Anna Haanstra / West Pubnico, Sport NS and Community Culture and Heritage
- Nov 3 – YSMRA Meeting
- Nov 4 – Low Carbon Community Webinar

Director of Programming and Active Living – Ginette d’Entremont

Parc des Jeunes - Two accessible swings have been installed at the playground.

Adult Hiking – Our guided hike in Kempt was held on Saturday October 23rd. The hike ended up being 10kms in total. We had low numbers in registration but kept the event and it was very much enjoyed by the participants.

We are organizing another one in Birchdale this month, but the details are not finalized yet.

Christmas Tree Lighting – The tree lighting event will be held on Sunday November 28 at 6pm at the Archives.

Halloween event – Our Halloween event for children 12 years and younger was held on the Rail Trail in Belleville on Thursday October 28th. We had 35 children registered along with parents that attended. We had 10 volunteers help with the event. We received positive feedback on our event and recommended it be done again next year.

55 + Games – The last part of the 55+ Provincial games will be held at the Curling Club in Yarmouth on November 12-14. There are currently 92 curlers registered to participate in this portion of the games. The availability of ice was the reason the curling was held at a different time as the other events.

East Pubnico Bike Park – An addition to the existing bike course at the East Pubnico Bike Park has now been completed. This section is designed for the younger children in mind, those 7 years and younger. In addition, we were able to purchase 2 bikes and helmets to be available on loan

for those younger children who do not have access to bikes. This was part of the Active Communities Fund initiatives.

Meetings

October 12 – Sports Fund meeting at Mariners on Main
October 14 – Workplace Wellness meeting
October 20 – CEC École Belleville (Zoom)
October 20 – SAC Drumlin Heights School
October 21 – South Shore Connect (Zoom)
October 21- Strength Finder meeting with MPALs (Zoom)
October 21 – Écoles Plus (Zoom)
October 25 – Starlight meeting (Zoom)
November 1 – 55+ Curling meeting (Zoom)
November 2 – YCAA meeting with Yarmouth Rec
November 3 – YSMRA (Zoom)

Public Works – Kyle Boudreau

West Pubnico Sewer Treatment Plant

Currently all systems are functioning well, all our test results are well withing the parameters set by NSDEO. The new trident press is working great, and we are still trying to set up a date for official commissioning.

There was a study done by Dillon Consulting in December 2020 that has now been passed on to NSDOE for their recommendations. It is regarding solving a rare issue that happens with that station not being able to keep up during large rain events. Two viable options were presented to us to try to rectify the problem, but these need approval from NSDOE before any decision is made. Since last report NSDOE has come back with their recommendations and this has been passed on to Dillion Consulting.

NSDOE is open to the overflow solution if we consider it a short-term solution. Dillion is looking at getting us up to date estimated cost of this project.

Tusket Sewer Treatment System

This plant seems to be operating well. The anaerobic field issue as improved but is not completely rectified yet.

The contract has been awarded to Acadian Plumbing and Heating to repurpose the generator from the former Municipal Building. This generator is a big step towards our Tusket System being operational during power outages.

Generator work has started and should be completed in the next 2 weeks.

East Pubnico Water Utility

The new monitoring system is functioning at Willet Road wells. There has been a PO issued to install monitoring at the Popes Road well that will bring us up to date on what we need to satisfy NSDOE reporting.

Wedgeport Sewer System

Regular maintenance and pumping are being done on the existing sewers. There are 3 systems that are dealing with a knot weed on the septic fields. This knot weed will cause long term issues as the root matures. This is not an ideal time of year to rectify this temperate wise however solutions are being investigated. Phase 3 of this project will be going to construction tender in early 2022 after some delays due to covid pandemic.

Facility and field Maintenance

Nothing new to report

Building Inspection Report – John Sullivan

To date in the 2021 building season, staff have issued 115 Building Permits with 2 permits pending as well, staff has also issued 140 development permits (including electrical power hookups) for a total of 255 permits issued. Note: 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. 5 letters for Zoning Confirmations have also been issued. Please see attached building report for further details on the permits issued this month.

Report from Alix d'Entremont – GIS Technician

- Ongoing civic address and data maintenance.
- Updated potential ADA polygons.
- ADA meeting on Oct 14
- Created a new road on Robert's Island called Sharp Point Road.
- Worked with software company Marmak to update our building permit software.
- Modifications to Fire Safety Building Plan.
- Met with Fire Chiefs to discuss possible boundary modifications.

Senior Safety Officer – Peggy Boudreau

- Month of October 4 new clients

- Home visits 20 phone call visits 55
- 2 referrals from RCMP
- 2 referrals to RCMP
- Referrals to continuing care (home care) 2
- Referrals to Adult Protection 3
- Referrals to mental Health 2
- Placements from hospital ALC to nursing home 2
- Referrals for Town of Yarmouth clients 2
- High risk clients 10
- Vial of life completed 2

Other

- Home care meeting with provincial representatives re other care services in the planning stages
- Meeting with choice group, Coldest month list of resources.
- Met with John Duffus regarding client cleanup.
- Deliver food bucks Yarmouth farmer's market for November and December.
- Met with new connector program manager.
- Met with hospital social workers re client.
- Met with hospital case worker regarding funding for project to support health for our Acadian population.
- Meeting to Review Emergency plan for Argyle home support agency.
- Met with new Staff Sergeant David Simpson to review roles and responsibilities of program.