

PAGE BRIEFS

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Bike Racks

Councillor Parker said a lot of new people have moved into the area who are dedicated cyclists. Some of them have mentioned to him, they have not noticed bike racks on municipal trails. After suggestion to look at active transportation and fitness, it was agreed to refer to Recreation Department staff to provide report to identify possible sites for racks. Councillor Cooper indicated racks not be put in retail locations, while councillor Sandeson should not put in middle of trail with access to agriculture field as it might upset farmers.

Village Line stop sign

A stop sign at the recommendation of RCMP was removed for paving and sidewalk construction. Councillor Parker stated the location is at a point where ownership of road changes and that Bible Hill has been getting lots of calls about the lack of the sign and speeding is a problem in the area.

On motion by Councillor Boutilier to form an ad hoc committee to review policies for the Grants to Non-Profits was referred to the nominating committee for a report. It was suggested four councillors should form the committee. Rob Simonds, CAO suggested perhaps August should be established as completion date because deadline is January 31st. Boutilier stated there needs to be greater clarity on acceptability of who could apply and what amounts. Councillor Parker, who was the sole vote against the motion, stated the matter was redone in 2017 and all that is needed is to follow policy.

Seniors' College of Nova Scotia is offering a Public Lecture entitled "Welcome Home: Newcomers to Nova Scotia". It will be presented by Nabihah Atallah, Advisor on Strategic Initiatives, Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS). It will be held on Thursday June 3, 2021 at 10 am via Zoom. This Public Lecture is open to everyone but you do need to register in advance: <https://form.jotform.com/211085010612236> For more information, www.thescans.org

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

FCM Conference in virtual format for 2021

The annual FCM conference which in the past has attracted the interest of several councillors will be held in a virtual format again this year.

Councillor Taggart who is serving as 3rd VP from Atlantic Canada and one of four representatives to the national board from Nova Scotia has indicated he is not reoffering. He agreed the \$600 fee for a virtual conference is a lot of money, but it is very important. Deputy Mayor Stewart agreed the conference is very important.

There was suggestion to perhaps register four delegates, have them switch in and out for various sessions. Councillor Sandeson asked if there could be a large screen to watch the proceedings with several councillors attending at the same time. The matter was not resolved at the April meeting. It will be discussed and a report will be forthcoming later.

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Deadline for the July issue of The Shoreline Journal is June 22.



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News from our Federal Capital

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Canada. The program was developed in Tatamagouche with federal funding.

The MEED was developed by Sustainability Solutions Group, a climate planning consultancy that has created community energy and emissions plans for over 60 municipalities, and whatIf? Technologies, experts in energy, emissions and financial modelling. Funding was provided by Natural Resources Canada's GeoConnections Program, which facilitates sharing and use of geospatial information about Canada's lands, people and natural resources to support economic, social and environmental priorities.

News from our Municipal Council - District 10

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away! It keeps getting defeated and keeps coming back in a different variation. First, and again these are provincially owned roads! Secondly if the local area councillor wants to increase their Municipal tax rate to pay for a Provincial responsibility then, I will support! That is their decision and they will either please or anger their voters, again their decision and I will not hold them back. I feel the need to clarify this as eventually something will get passed in some form and I want to ensure my position is clearly on the record.

I am happy to advise that the Municipality has secured funding thru the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund in the amount of \$5,565,400 and this funding is to be used for interest free loans to residents of Colchester County to do home energy retrofits. Such as: Replacing low efficiency furnaces with high efficiency furnaces, heat pumps or geo-thermal heat pumps. Basement or wall insulation, high efficiency water heaters or solar panels and replacing doors and windows. This program will begin this summer and I will ensure you are provided with the details.

News from our Municipal Council - District 9

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stand a decision does need to be made and we are all doing what we can to ensure no tax increase for our residents.

J-Class roads are maintained and owned by the province. However, a few years ago they downloaded 50% of this cost to the Municipality to come up with a cost sharing project. I have spoken with some residents that live on the J-class roads in District 9 for their thoughts and will continue to do so until I have a consensus of what their wishes are.

A new committee was formed in April, "Debert Business Park Advisory Committee" and is made up of Municipal staff, 3 councillors, the Mayor, an area resident and a couple of business owners. I look forward to working with this group as there are some exciting gains to be had in the next few years as we rejuvenate the Debert Business Park. Rejuvenation begins with the repaving of McElmons/Plains Rd, which as of today has begun. Concerns were sent to DOT about widening of the road but it has been determined the road meets (and/or exceeds) the provincial road standard of 6.6 meters wide, while this road ranges between 7.4m-8m wide at various points.

Currently the road is in very poor condition, however once work is completed and resurfaced the lanes will be wider because they will be fully usable. Talk is ongoing in regards to a roundabout as a gateway into the Business Park and a need to accommodate long-combination-vehicles for our current distribution centers that continue to grow along with other upcoming developments.

There is huge potential in opportunities and growth available to make this business park an attractive location to work, play and stay and we are committed to making this a reality.

One concern for me is with more business's coming to the area could potentially increase our ongoing litter issues. One of our dedicated volunteers was just out picking up litter at the beginning of Plains Rd and Lancaster Crescent. In less than a kilometer they gathered 7 bags of garbage and 50 urine bottles. One of my commitments is to come up with some sustainable strategies. In speaking with the CAO of the Municipality, he has reached out to different staff in various departments to form a working committee in respect to education, public works, community engagement, solid waste etc.

The platform supports open knowledge and data sharing among municipalities, particularly smaller and medium-sized municipalities, allowing greater access to standardized data on energy use and GHG emissions to support land-use planning, policy development and program design. This information is critical for designing effective plans for reducing GHG emissions.

The government is supporting green infrastructure projects that create good jobs and advance Canada's green future.

Lenore Zann is Member of Parliament for Cumberland-Colchester.

With the arrival of spring we are faced with all the trash that has been thrown on our roadsides. It is absolutely shameful. I wish to thank and commend those residents which I cannot name for fear of missing someone. Those residents who during their daily walk take the time to clean up the garbage thrown out by others and show pride in our communities. Your help is greatly appreciated. Last week I attended a Provincial solid waste meeting and learned that our neighbours in East Hants have made a commitment that they would work with community volunteers to keep the highway interchanges into their communities litter free.

The commitment driven by East Hants Council has been a resounding success, with a waiting list of community groups offering to help in a safe facilitated manner. I plan to put the challenge before our council at the next meeting.

Finally I wish to Congratulate The Shoreline Journal on being a finalist in the Atlantic Journal Awards for 2020 on his reporting during the Mass Murders in our Communities April 18 and 19 2020. As usual The Shoreline Journal published informative and compassionate articles during this difficult time.

Tom Taggart is Colchester's municipal councillor for District 10.

I am very excited to move forward on this initiative and to also involve business stakeholders and key community members that have been instrumental in keeping our community clean thus far.

With that I would like to say Thank you!!

There are also some exciting enhancements coming to the area, I would like to touch on. The Debert Elementary school and Parent Teacher Group have been working hard on fundraisers and grants to allow a new and much needed playground in memory of Lisa McCully. This will be accessible and inclusive to all. Their hope is to have phase 1 and 2 completed this year with phase 3 remaining.

Myself, Counsellor Taggart as well as the recreation staff of the Municipality are working with a couple of the families in regards to the April 18th/19th tragedy to build a Memorial Park on Plains Rd for all to enjoy and offer a reflective space as well as a playground and natural play forest. It is absolutely breathtaking in there as was noted when we did our site visit.

The families wishes are to bring some positivity to the area for their loved ones as well as the community. We are in beginning stages with this project.

One last project I would like to mention that has been in talks the last few years with myself as a community member and the recreation dept of the Municipality is coming to a reality this summer. I am very excited the original tennis court on Colchester Park (formally known as the Debert Military Base) has been in a sad state for a number of years. Although kids and families still enjoy using it, I am happy to say Wil-Kare has been out and will begin to resurface the playing area in July. There will be basketball nets and a new tennis net installed, lines will be painted for the different sports as this will be a multi use recreation space. The existing fence will be repaired with a couple benches, garbage can and hoping to have a box with hockey sticks and balls etc, for those to borrow while there.

I will sign off for now, stay safe and enjoy time with your loved ones, be kind to one another as we navigate through these unprecedented times.

Marie Benoit is Colchester Municipal Councillor for District 9



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