

RECREATION AND LEISURE SERVICES

November 9, 2021

A Recreation and Leisure Services Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, November 9, 2021. The meeting convened at 7:35 a.m. via Zoom Teleconference. In attendance were Mayor Darrin Bent, Deputy Mayor Gosse, Councillors Moores (Chairperson), Hillier, Connors, Tilley, Hardy, and Barrett, John Whelan, Acting Director of Recreation and Leisure Services, Natasha Hann, Program Supervisor.

1. Recreation Complex Program Updates for COVID-19 Fall 2021

The Director advised the Committee that the Recreation Complex Fall Set 2 2021 registration was held for residents of CBS on Monday, October 25, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. Unfortunately, there were major problems due to an issue with our 3rd party credit card processing company. This caused a lot of stress for our customers due to not being able to pay for lessons and confirm their spaces. Through a collaborated effort with our IT Department, Communications and the Aquatics Manager we were able to provide updates to customers and eventually resolved this problem approximately 8:30 p.m. There was a large effort behind the scenes to rectify the problem, provide refunds to anyone over charged and confirm spaces in lessons. Registration was shut down Tuesday, October 26 and resumed on Thursday, October 28 at 6:30 p.m. for residents of CBS. Registration opened to outside CBS on Friday, October 29 at 12:30 p.m. online and has remained open to try to fill all spaces. Below are the current numbers registered, with more coming in sporadically.

Public Swim Lessons	183/243 spaces filled
Private Swim Lessons	73/73 spaces filled

2. Mental Health Wellness Walk Update

The Program Supervisor advised that the Department held the second Mental Health Wellness Walk, in coordination with Dr. H. Khalili and [REDACTED]. This was a great success, where Dr. Khalili spoke to the 30 participants about tips to improve mental health and wellness while walking along the T'Railway.

The Committee further discussed this event and concurred that the next Mental Health Wellness Walk will be planned for a lunchtime event, rather than morning.

3. Seniors Halloween Social

The Committee was advised by the Program Supervisor that the Seniors Halloween Social took place on October 28, 2021 at Manuel's River Hibernia Interpretation Centre. In respect of COVID-19 guidelines, the event was catered by Executive Chef Mike Wozney, from Frida's Riverside Café and entertainment was provided by Ken Parsons with Liars Bench. The event was a great success with approximately 80 residents in attendance.

This was provided for the information of the Committee.

4. Halloween Skate

The Program Supervisor advised the Committee that the free Halloween Skate took place 1:00 p.m. on October 31, 2021 at the Conception Bay South Arena. The event was enjoyed by all, with approximately 100 people in attendance. All participants received a 'prepared with care' Halloween loot bag.

This was provided for the information of the Committee.

5. Worsley Park 50+ Club- Programming Update

The Program Supervisor updated the Committee on the darts and cards programming that takes place with the Worsley Park 50+ Club. Recently, by request of the Club, Staff have been working closely with Occupational Health and Safety to adjust the agreement (pertaining to COVID-19 guidelines) with the 50+ Club. It has now been adjusted to include bubbles within the operational set-up, to allow for more participants and more ideal table layouts.

This was provided for the information of the Committee.

6. CNA Work Term Student

The Committee was advised by the Program Supervisor that the Department will have a work term student for a month. This student is currently enrolled in the Community Recreation Leadership program at CNA. They will work under the Program Supervisor from November 15-Dec 10, 2021.

This was provided for the information of the Committee.

7. Christmas Parade 2021

The Program Supervisor advised the Committee, in follow-up to previous conversations, Staff have planned for the potential date of December 11, and have gauged interest of local service clubs for representation on the Christmas Parade committee, as facilitated by Town Staff.

The Committee further discussed the Parade and concurred that staff should proceed with arranging the first meeting of the Christmas Parade Committee, and begin initial planning, while awaiting approval from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure.

8. Tree Lighting Ceremony 2021

Committee was advised by the Program Supervisor that staff have tentatively planned for the potential date of this event to be December 4, 2021.

There was further discussion on this event and the Committee concurred that it should proceed with the event being in person, as COVID-19 guidelines currently permit this type of event, and it is an outdoor event.

The Director also informed the Committee that there were some negative comments on social media regarding the fact that the Remembrance Day Ceremony was not open to the public, and was by invitation only. He also clarified that this is a Legion event and it was their decision, not the Towns. It was agreed that the Town proceed with clarifying this information on social media, provided that the Legion are ok with it.

9. Manuel's River Christmas Light Walk

The Director advised the Committee that the Department is currently planning this year's Christmas activities and are interested in including the Light Walk at Manuel's River that initiated in 2020.

During further discussions on this item Council agreed with proceeding with it for this year again, and requested to have the lights on for a longer period of time to allow for even more residents to enjoy the display. It was also discussed that the addition of hot chocolate being served on the evenings that the trail is lit up would be a good idea.

Councillor Hardy left the meeting at 8:11 a.m.

10. Christmas Seniors Social

The Committee was advised by the Director that staff are planning the Christmas Seniors Social. This event will be implemented similarly to the Halloween Seniors Social, following the COVID-19 Guidelines around these types of events. This will include such specifics as, having a caterer provide the meal portion instead of staff and Council, the caterer will be Executive Chef Mike Wozney, from Frida's Riverside Café. Masks will have to be worn, social distancing adhered to, and any other particulars that are current, at that time based on Public Health guidelines, while also working with Occupational Health and Safety, within the Town. There will be entertainment provided and there will be pre-registration prior to the event, in order to keep within capacities that are set out. Staff will plan the event in two sessions to accommodate the anticipated demand.

The Committee had further discussion on the Seniors Socials as it relates to inviting the local Seniors Homes. It was agreed that due to the varying types of Homes within the Town, and the limited capacities at indoor venues, it would be best to open up an invitation to the few Seniors Homes, when the Seniors Events are outdoor ones, as many more people can be accommodated. The rationale for this is to avoid filling up all of the spaces with residents in homes, leaving none for residents that are living in their own homes/apartments.

It was also mentioned that [REDACTED] were potentially interested in hosting a Seniors Social at their facility, and that they could work with the Town and open it up to residents within the Town who do not live at [REDACTED]. It was agreed that staff would look further into this.

11. Winterfest 2022

The Director advised the Committee that in past years the Winterfest Committee would have their first regular meeting in early October. Depending on which COVID-19 restrictions are in place at the time, 2022's festival, could look much different than in previous years, if it were to proceed. However, staff have discussed the possibility of still being able to offer some events, keeping in compliance with current COVID-19 Guidelines. Ideally the advertisement to recruit Winterfest Committee members, would go out within the next few weeks, to allow time for proper planning of events. Details were further discussed with the Committee.

There was further discussion on this event and the Committee concurred that there should be a variety of in person and virtual events. Also, it was suggested that the Manuels River Light Walk would be a nice addition during the festival.

12. New Years Eve Skate and Fireworks

The Director informed the Committee that the fireworks for this event had been ordered and that there was an increase in shipping charges. He also noted that depending on the gulf crossings, there is potential that they may not arrive in time, due to it being a dangerous goods item that is being shipped. Weather would also be a factor in the timing of their arrival. The Director also noted that should the fireworks be delayed arriving, they could be utilized during Winterfest 2022. The Committee continued to discuss fireworks on a go forward basis and requested staff to research potential alternate shows that could be looked into, such as a light show.

Councillor Barrett left the meeting at 8:25am

13. Community Bonfire Night

The Program Supervisor informed the Committee that, as in past years, the Department had an event on Guy Fawkes Night (Bonfire Night), November 5. This event was done in conjunction with the Conception Bay South Fire Department. The Town offered various small fire pits for people to gather. Factoring in COVID-19 guidelines, staff handed out unopened packages of wieners and marshmallows to each bubble. It was advertised that Residents were encouraged to bring along their own roasting sticks, so as to avoid having multiple people reusing roasting sticks. There was a pre-registration done in bubbles to ensure safety. In an effort to accommodate as many residents as possible, two timeslots were offered, one at 6:00 p.m. and one at 7:00 p.m. These sessions consisted of 10 bubbles per timeslot, totaling approximately 100 participants.

The feedback during the event was very positive and some residents suggested that it might be a good idea to offer some times throughout the winter months, that residents could come along and utilize the Towns fire pits.

14. Age Friendly Survey Report Presentation to Council

The Director advised the Committee that staff had decided to postpone the presentation to Council on the Age Friendly Report, until the newly elected Council were in place. Now that this has taken place, potential dates and times to arrange this presentation were discussed. It was agreed that an in-person presentation would be best and that it would be beneficial to have Council, the Seniors Advisory Committee and Staff in attendance.

As soon as the Data Analyst confirms some potential dates that are available for this presentation, staff will pass them along to Council so that a date can be decided, based on Council's wishes.

15. Recreation and Cultural Master Plan Public Presentation

The Committee was informed by the Director that the tentative date for the public presentation of the Draft Plan was initially scheduled for September 16, 2021 at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 50, with a reduced capacity due to COVID-19 restrictions and also to be livestreamed via the Town's YouTube Channel, to allow as many residents as possible to view it. However, it was decided during a Recreation and Leisure Services Committee meeting, to defer this event until after the newly elected Council were in place.

Further discussion with the Committee took place on the plan going forward and it was agreed that staff reach out to the Consultants and propose a couple of dates for this presentation, check availability of the Legion, then confirm the date with Council. The concept behind a couple of dates was in the event that the first event fills to capacity and there is more interest from residents in attending, a second evening could be utilized to accommodate.

16. Conception Bay South Arena – Growlers Games.

The Director informed the Committee that the 3 game weekend series with the Growlers was very successful, with many positive comments from the Growlers Organization, fans, and social media comments. This success can be attributed to a collaborative team effort amongst Town staff. Based on limited time for preparation for this event, overall it was a huge positive success. The Director also commended Council for taking the initiative on.

Councillor Hardy rejoined the meeting at 8:45 a.m.

17. Important Dates

Remembrance Day Ceremony	November 11, 2021
Tree Lighting Ceremony	December 4, 2021
Christmas Parade (Tentative)	December 11, 2021
Public Presentation of Draft Recreation and Cultural Master Plan	TBD
Volunteer/Citizen of the Year Awards	TBD
Age Friendly Survey Report draft presentation to Council	TBD

18. Potential Problems/Concerns

- Potential for delay in fireworks arrival (based on shipping of dangerous goods, weather, etc.). Should this happen an alternate date will be chosen by Council, for fireworks display to take place.
- Condensed advertising time for Volunteer/Citizen of the Year awards nominations.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

1. Volunteer of the Year/Citizen of the Year Awards

The Committee had a discussion on this item and agreed to host both the 2020 and 2021 Awards in 2022, around the time that these normally take place. This will allow sufficient time for advertising and nominations to be submitted.

2. Calendar of Events for Council

It was requested that all events be entered in Council's calendars, to alert them of any upcoming events. The Director confirmed that this will be coordinated with Administration staff.

3. Food Trucks – Growlers Games

The Committee discussed this item and agreed that due to VaxPass restrictions, required parking and the need to promote the local restaurants, it was decided to not have the food trucks provide food services for this event.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.57 a.m.

Shelly Moores
Chairperson

John Whelan
Acting Director