

Monthly Report

Planning and Strategic Initiatives

March 2019

Staff continue to refine the results of the Council's Strategic Priority Planning Day held in December. Priority themes, and Potential Outcomes have been through multiple reviews with management staff. A Vision, Mission, and Guiding Principles have also been developed, with the goal to provide them for Council's consideration in March.

With regard to the Commercial Assessment Phase In program, two projects have been completed and the program agreement is being finalized. These agreements being the first under the program, careful review is required to ensure contractual certainty. Additional participants are signing on as investment projects move forward.

The VIA Station transfer is now complete. JE Bembridge has begun renovations, and operational details (security, utilities, renovation planning) are being worked through. With the transfer now complete, Planning will be transitioning responsibility to Facilities Management within the Operations Department.

Extensive project planning for the NSPI Smart Grid Implementation Project is ongoing that includes consideration for the Solar for Community Buildings program that was awarded for the Stadium. Staff are looking at ways to incorporate both programs simultaneously.

Town staff are in discussions with the Cumberland Energy Authority and Efficiency Nova Scotia for administration of the PACE program that would apply to both municipalities. This would allow for easier marketing of the program, and allow residents from both areas to get information with minimal confusion.

With regards to planning matters, the Planning Advisory Committee, in a Heritage Advisory capacity have reviewed proposed renovations to the Provincial Courthouse building that will include a ramp within the edge of Victoria Square. The Committee will forward a recommendation to Council on this matter. Staff are also working with a developer on two significant land developments.

Planning also continues to provide planning and development services for the Town of Oxford.