

Monthly Report

Planning and Strategic Initiatives

April 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 through the budget process.

The VIA Station renovation is underway, 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 with a second funding announcement being considered for May. The project originally included a solar and battery installation at the Stadium, but this component is now being considered for another Town owned facility. This change allows the Town to pursue the Solar for Community Buildings Program that was awarded for the Stadium.

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. A CDR providing details of the program is included in this month's agenda.

With regards to planning matters, staff will be holding a Public Participation Session on May 1st to get public input on a potential amendment to the Land Use Bylaw that would allow non-electrified, off-lot signage in the Core Area District of the Downtown Zone. Staff are continuing to consult with a developer on a significant land development.

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