

Town of Riverview

CAO DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT



To: Mayor and Town Council

Prepared by: Colin Smith, CAO

Date: June 26, 2023

Month & Year: May 2023 June 2023

Section 1: 2023 Priorities

Priority	Activities
<i>Regionalization of Services with the Commission</i>	<p><i>To work with the Regional Service Commission and the municipalities to develop regional strategies and operational plans for the services that the province has determined will be delivered regionally. These include economic development; social issues encompassing homelessness/affordable housing, etc.; tourism promotion; cost sharing for regional recreational assets; and regional transportation.</i></p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The municipal administrators meeting with the Regional Service Commission was on June 13th. The administrators were provided an overview of the next steps in finalizing the first draft of the region's Strategic Plan. The Board approved plan must be submitted to the Province prior to July 1, 2023. The group also discussed the benefit for the Commission's leadership to schedule a Strategic Plan Joint Overview Session for all of the region's municipal Councillors in advance of budget approvals in the fall.• The regional tourism promotion committee met on May 24 and has its second meeting schedule for June 27th. The objective of the next meeting is to finalize the committee's work plan for the upcoming year.• The NB Municipal Associations continue to advocate for changes to the government's proposed Local Governance Commission Act, in particular the stated authority of the Commission and Minister have to override Council's municipal by-law decisions. The Minister has indicated a willingness to engage on the topic, however, has not committed to amending the overall legislation. The Minister has indicated there is a seven-step process before the Minister would be engaged in this type of review, so the argument is it would rarely be used. The Province feels it needs this authority as it may need to interject in the "best interest" of the Province. Furthermore, the Minister has indicated there may be some ideas of defining the specific areas of intervention the Government would consider in the regulations to be developed.

Priority	Activities
Organizational & Succession Planning	<p><i>To develop a long-term organizational and management succession plan that considers upcoming retirements; current vacant positions; broader regional direction for some services (i.e., economic development); future direction of the organization; etc. The plan will align the structure of the organization with Council's Strategic Plan. The intention is to align the right personnel possessing the right capabilities in the right departments/organizational structure.</i></p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n/a
Operational Management and Oversight	<p><i>Lead the management team in ensuring the organization lives up to the Service Excellence expectation in the Town's strategic plan focusing on shared operational practices and expectations.</i></p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The key metrics on the Town's operational management in a solid place as of the end of June: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Both operational budgets (utility and general) are in surplus positions as of the end of May. ▪ The Q2 PM conversations are schedule over the next few weeks by all managers and the process is being executed as expected to ensure discussions with non bargaining employees are occurring. ▪ Access E11 service requests submitted by residents are being reviewed and addressed in anticipated timeframes. ▪ Ongoing communication and engagement with employees are occurring on a regular basis, including bi-weekly internal newsletters; monthly employee spotlight recognition; 50th Swag options for full time staff; etc.
Corporate Projects & Operational/ Process Improvements	<p><i>Lead the oversight role in executing the following 2023 projects: 1) a housing needs assessment and potential affordable housings strategy for Riverview; and 2) a commercial market threshold analysis for Riverview.</i></p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In June Stantec presented a draft of their housing needs assessment data analytics to the project steering committee, and the committee's feedback was provided. The data includes projections on population and housing growth for the next fifteen years and early indications are that the data does identify some alarm bells for the Town to consider in future planning. The stakeholder engagement session required as part of the housing needs assessment is scheduled for the week of June 19. The first deliverable of this project (the housing needs assessment) will be submitted to the Town in July. The project is currently about three weeks behind schedule. Once the housing needs assessment is completed, Stantec will begin working on a proposed Affordable Housing Strategy for the Town.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City of Moncton organized a housing summit for our region which occurred on June 21 and 22 to discuss options to address the current housing shortfall/crisis in NB, which I attended. The session focused on the current housing challenges in the region/NB; and the current barriers to housing/multi-unit development (costs; financing; NIMBYs; Councils' reluctance to support development/or changes in development concepts (i.e., height/locations; etc.); the demographic crunch in the housing market – Boomers/Millennials; etc.). The summit also included a discussion on how municipalities can access the Federal Government's Housing Accelerator Fund. The Housing Accelerator Fund application process will open in July. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As we finalize the Town's housing needs assessment one interesting data point that was highlighted during this summit which I think is beneficial for Council to be aware of and keep in mind when making planning decision is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between 2021 and 2022 over 8,000 people moved into In the Greater Moncton CMA. The Greater Moncton development communities' current annual rate of construction is that collective it is producing around 1,200 new units. If you consider the average household includes 2.1 individuals that means the current rate of construction is not even meeting the current demand for housing in our region. The current economic assumption is that our region's population is going to continue to grow over the next few years. Therefore, without additional housing/multi unit supply the region we will continue to exasperate the housing shortage/vacancy rates. Therefore, Riverview's current housing challenge will continue if we still want to see our community grow. The Commercial Market Threshold is being finalized and will be submitted to staff before the end of June.

Other items:

Housing Trend Data Table

Trends in Housing Units in Riverview					
	Additional Units added in Riverview Between 2018-2023			Total Units per Census 2021 Data in Riverview	
Single unit dwellings:	95	10.88%		5,890	68.09%
Two-unit dwelling:	120	13.75%		690	7.98%
Multi-unit dwellings	658	75.37%		2,070	23.93%
Total number of units:	873			8,650	
notes					
Multi units range from a 3 unit to 78 units building					
# reflect based on building permit numbers may not actual reflect units completed. (as an example some projects are still under construction)					