

Wayne Thorburne Responses

1-There are many ways to engage the residents in the town of Bridgewater. Social media is an effective and instantaneous way to reach the majority of the residents. Council set up a talk Bridgewater format that was held in various locations every 3 months. Every Christmas I visit local business and deliver a Christmas card from the town and I can listen and take report back to council on issues and concerns that were important to them. Councillor Bill McInnis shared his method with me that every month he would go through the phone book and randomly pick five people living in town. He called them and some great ideas were shared, and he now had five new contacts that could go to him if they had any issues or concerns.

2-The one thing that I would like changed in our zoning code would be, when an application is received to change one residential property from R1(SINGLE UNIT RESIDENTIAL) to R2 (TWO UNIT RESIDENTIAL) that all the remaining properties be canvased and changed at the same time. This would save residents long delays in converting from one to two units.

3- If I am not re elected to council, I would continue to work on issues that I feel are important to our town. I currently sit on 8 boards and standing committees. I truly think that climate change and the environment are serious issues. The continuing upward trend in global temperatures resulting from green house gas emission changes the climate Human caused global warming shows no sign of decline. Individually we must do our part to control the amount of green house gases released into our atmosphere.

4- There are a few major issues we must address in order for our town to continue its growth. Sustainable and affordable housing, 2018 sanitary and stormwater master plan, asset management, and the Bridgewater Memorial Arena. In December 2019, a redevelopment feasibility study on the Bridgewater Memorial Arena was completed by the Acadia Entrepreneurship Centre. There were four organizations which have expressed an interest in paying for space usage with in the building on a permanent or semi-permanent basis, including Bridgewater Farmers Market, South Shore Players, The Flourish. Centre, and the Canadian Tai Chi Academy. In the 2020/2021 budget \$150,000.00 was placed in the capital budget to install Garage doors and make the necessary changes to house two 18 passenger buses and staff. Providing storage space and staff facilities for the Parks & Rec members would save approximately \$1,800,000.00 required to build a new facility. I believe the time is right to have discussions with the stakeholders saving to complete the project and save the taxpayers thousands of dollars.

5- Some of the ways I have been volunteering in our community are as finance chair for 2016 World Sledge Hockey Challenge, finance chair of the 2018 Canadian Midget Woman's Hockey Cup, and I am serving as administration and finance chair of the Canadian Tire Para Cup being held at the LCLC in 2021. I am currently on the sick and visiting committee at the Bridgewater fire department. As a member of the Royal Canadian Legion for 16 years I have served as president for the last 3.

6-The town is growing at a rapid rate and the housing market is showing no sign of slowing down. The town of Bridgewater is the fastest growing town of under 10,000 residents in eastern Canada. Our tax revenue from Industrial, commercial and residential growth has allowed us to provide the core services for the residents and maintain the same business and residential rate that we set in 2012 budget year.

I did join a party to show my support for a leadership candidate who I thought would be the best for Nova Scotia. Having said that over the years I have always voted for the candidate which best reflects my views and will do the best job for my riding. I believe that my membership will not have any negative or positive impact in Bridgewater

7-. Planning and scheduling are critical in all aspects of the services we provide to the community. We must continue to provide a high level of service to our residents while focusing on the commitments we have already made such as storm and waste water issues, and the development of our town. I believe that storm sewer, waste water and paving are the most pressing needs for the continual growth of our town. If we are to continue to attract new business and residents, we must not restrict where they are able to build. We have committed an extra 4.2 million dollars to put in the necessary infrastructure. The opening of land for the Exit 12A interchange will require water, sewer, wastewater, fire hydrants and sidewalks to be installed during the construction

8-If I received a \$1Million grant for the town I would research the 2-capital storm and waste water projects scheduled for 2021/2022 and the 2023/2024 budget years. The High street project from Empire to Victoria road including the replacing of undersized pipe, upgrading the water main by the PSC and allows for the separation of storm from waste water at a cost of \$830,000.00 or the phase 3 of Empire street from York to High street which allows the separation of storm from sanitary water at a cost of \$910,000.00. Either one of these projects would remove hundred of thousands of gallons of water that currently gets treated at the wastewater facility off of LaHave street. and allow for more capacity for development in the town. The good news is these streets really need to be paved and this would complete both tasks.

9-I truly believe that the public bus pilot project in 2018 was imperative for the residents in Bridgewater. It helps improve the quality of life for some members, provide transportation for workers, trips for the daycare and students attending school and the community college. The partnerships established with the city of Halifax, the Provincial and Federal governments made it possible. The ridership started off low but has steadily increased and surpassed our expectations. Council decided that it was an essential service which the town needed for its residents. The new buses are scheduled to arrive sometime in October and will eliminate the down time incurred by the old buses. Staff are currently applying for grants to build shelters and benches for those waiting for the bus to arrive. The Citizens for Public Transit in Lunenburg County tried to get a service started but couldn't get consensus from its members on the best approach. Bridgewater believed that with our population and collaboration with key members it was possible to try the transit system in Bridgewater and we never looked back.

10- My research reveals that Cornwallis street in Bridgewater was not named to honour Edward Cornwallis. At our Heritage Advisory committee meeting, after a prolonged and very in-depth discussion it was decided by consensus of the HAC that there is more direction needed to be given by the Bridgewater Town Council and that there needs to be open dialogue involving HAC, the Indigenous Peoples and the Anti-Racism Task Force before a plan can be developed to address this topic. The

Mi'kmaq People are the only ones who can tell us if the pain and suffering of their people is worsened by the existence of Cornwallis street.

11- The town is in the process of hiring an economic development officer for the town. The EDO should use his/her expertise to help define the charter and trajectory of economic growth in the town of Bridgewater by focusing on promoting the community, developing sustainable jobs matched to local employment needs and opportunities, and increasing the municipal tax base. The EDO is responsible for developing and coordinating the implementation of an economic development strategic action plan. He or she shall have a lead role in activities and initiatives that will attract investment and business opportunities to the town of Bridgewater and will actively support business retention and expansion activities that will maintain and increase local employment in the region.