

## **Committee of the Whole**

### **Committee Updates March/21**

#### **Mayor Chisholm-Beaton**

##### **Raising the Villages Port Hawkesbury:**

Still searching for another co-chair to move this committee forward (so far there is some interest from one citizen).

##### **One Cape Breton**

No update.

##### **Ceilidh Market**

No Update.

Chair – Kevin MacEachern.

##### **Strait Richmond Housing Matters Coalition – Joint Richmond/Port Hawkesbury Group**

This group continues to discuss challenges and opportunities for housing, including housing gaps and housing needs for both communities, and of note, regular updates from Chloe Fox, who works to house persons who presently find themselves with little or no housing options (and relays the severity of homelessness in our Town). She presently has 27 clients she is trying to house, with minimal success.

Update: At present there is zero availability for public housing units in Town (some may open up over the next few months – will keep council updated).

Meeting date: March 10<sup>th</sup> 9:30am-11:30am (the group meets monthly, consists of several housing stakeholders (Municipal, Public sector, private sector, community). Letter being sent to Premier Iaian Rankin re: housing.

Chairs – Amanda Mombourquette (vice Chair Celeste Gotell)

##### **One Nova Scotia – REAP Project**

We have submitted our 2<sup>nd</sup> assignment as a team which outlines our regional economic zone, comparative advantages, and other economic data and stats (our data specialist for our Team is Morgan Murray – from the Cape Breton Partnership). Our first assignment was details of our

team members and roles for the year. Our next assignment will be to meet and create a group presentation about our economic zone.

### **Cape Breton-wide Conference Calls (Cape Breton Partnership)**

No update. Note: For the next call - we will be working collectively on a potential gateway project for the Strait of Canso Causeway entrance. Any new updates will be brought to council.

### **Allan J MacEachen Regional Airport**

We have not yet held our March 2021 meeting. Will update Council on next report.

(Temporary Acting Chair: Brenda Chisholm-Beaton (Town of Port Hawkesbury))

### **Cape Breton South Recruiting for Health Committee**

Doctor Tobechi Okehe is now here and was finished his 14-day isolation just before the weekend. He's eager to work in our community and we will do our best to ensure he feels welcomed and supported.

Our committee continues with significant discussions regarding our physician shortages (and other medical health care professionals) and we continue to maintain dialogue with our partners at NSHA and see if there might not be some short term solutions that can help relieve the current challenges (i.e. ability to attract nurse practitioners, etc.)

Social media presence is looking great too – kudos to Maggie!

(Co-chairs: Trevor Boudreau and Juanita Mombourquette)

### **NSFM Executive Board Meetings**

As Towns Caucus Chair, I attend our NSFM virtual executive board meetings – they are typically occurring by-weekly and/or monthly (as needed). We are continuing to monitor and advocate for Municipalities regarding the financial burden created by Covid, as well as continuing to pursue and advocate our main priority areas of: property tax CAP, extended producer responsibility (EPR), a new funding program for roads, municipal modernization, and municipal finances are still top priorities for NSFM and our members.

Our NSFM Province-wide Mayors and Wardens call took place on March 3rd.

Our new Minister, Brendan MacGuire attended and was very positive and happy to answer any questions of municipalities, and to improve the overall relationship with the Province.

(Chair – Mayor Emily Lutz Vice Chair – Amanda MacDougall).

### **Government FOCUS (Female Objectives Cape Breton Unama'ki Strait)**

We are launching a new project and designing a mentorship program for women and girls in Eastern Nova Scotia. A grandmother elder's gathering is taking place soon, that will help inform mentorship design for First Nation women and girls. A survey to help with general mentorship design is also being finalized.

(Co-chairs Karen Bernard & Brenda Chisholm-Beaton)

### **Waterfront Advisory Committee**

We continue to review Waterfront Development planning priorities, and the group suggested a renaming of the North Granville Street green space to be renamed "Sunset Park" (to be brought to council). The committee members are very engaged and positive about the future of the waterfront which is great to see!

New committee members were welcomed as well.

The next Waterfront Development meeting will take place March 22nd.

(chair Joan MacDonald - vice chair Blaine MacQuarrie)

### **Media and Other work**

In addition to regular media interviews after our public sessions, here are some other media activities I've participated in:

Housing Survey – I did a morning spot on 101.5 The Hawk to promote our housing survey and to talk about the importance of housing in our town.

Social Media – I continue to share items posted on our Town Social Media sites – and invite Council to do the same. It's a great way to engage and inform the community.