

Committee of the Whole

Committee Updates April 20/21

Mayor Chisholm-Beaton

Raising the Villages Port Hawkesbury:

No meeting updates to report.

One Cape Breton: Gateway Project

The Cape Breton Partnership hosted a preliminary meeting to discuss the potential of a gateway project at the Canso Causeway rotary in Port Hastings. Discussions included accessing the former study/plan for this gateway (from 2006-2007), other stakeholders who can be involved, and the tight timelines (also where to start). Present were Warden Cranton, Inverness EDO (Lynne), Warden Momborquette, Richmond/PH EDO (Megan), Carla Arsenault (CBP), myself. Other stakeholders to be contacted to continue to explore the potential of this project will be Chief Annie Bernard, Misty MacDonald (SACC), Terry Smith (DCBA) and possibly a stakeholder from Develop NS. Future meeting will be held virtually April 22/21.

Ceilidh Market

No meetings to report.

Chair – Kevin MacEachern.

Housing Advisory Committee (Port Hawkesbury)

Next meeting is upcoming (April 21). Report will be submitted at next COW.

Chairs – John Ouellette

One Nova Scotia – REAP Project

We concluded our first 2-day workshop – and participated as a team (in person) at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre on April 13/14 (and participated with the other 4 teams and the MIT faculty/Onside members virtually). The workshop allowed our team to focus on our region and explore our inventory of Small/Medium sized enterprises and Innovation driven Enterprises, our region's comparative advantages, and some potential areas of focus we can take as a team. Our team agreed that the Strait of Canso – with our deep-water ice-free port – and our multi-modal transportation hub of air, port, road and rail definitely is a huge comparative advantage to our region.

Cape Breton-wide Conference Calls (Cape Breton Partnership)

No meetings to report.

Allan J MacEachen Regional Airport.

We will hold our next meeting in April 27 2021. Report will be included in next COW report.

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

Cape Breton South Recruiting for Health Committee

Our last meeting was held April 15th. I was unable to attend but was able to get a brief update for the purposes of this report. CBSRH is participating in a Rural and Remote Online Conference (Course) to provide the opportunity to connect virtually with medical health care professionals on April 22-24th. Various members of the committee will coordinate their schedules to try to accommodate our available time slots.

Additionally, we are working on a proposal to the Nova Scotia Health Authority on how we might be able to work differently together to consider solutions to our health care challenges and pursue new “think outside the box” opportunities.

Lastly, May 1st is National Physician’s Day and Maggie is working on a plan to show our local doctors in Cape Breton South our gratitude. One of the ideas is to have a card box set up in the Civic Centre to receive notes/cards of thanks for our local physicians. Other ideas are being explored also.

Also as related update: Trevor Boudreau and I took Dr. Tobechi Okeke to dinner at the residence of Dr. Edward Arenson on April 10th. Dr Edward and his wife Aura did an amazing hospitable job welcoming Dr. Tobechi to the Strait area with some amazing food and conversation. Dr. Edward is no longer a part of our CBSRH committee however he had offered to help in welcoming new doctors and medical health care professionals to the area.

<https://capebretonrecruiting.com/>

(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.

We had a board meeting April 15th. One of the items discussed is the upcoming (virtual) Spring Conference on May 6th and 7th. Also to report, we have a new acting NSFM president – Amanda McDougall. Emily Lutz has taken a leave as she is running Provincially for nomination in the next election.

Our next NSFM Board meeting is not yet scheduled (date to be determined). These will continue as virtual meetings for the foreseeable future.

(Chair – Mayor Amanda McDougall-CBRM).

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

We have a survey that will be launched shortly to determine the level of interest in mentorship for women and girls in Eastern Nova Scotia. Our key partners are the Cape Breton Partnership and the Coady Institute.

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

Waterfront Advisory Committee

At last night's meeting (April 19), we reviewed Waterfront Development plan documents pertaining to Sunset Park, kiosks, themes around wind, water quality, work required for the waterfront this spring/summer, plans for AT, and more.

We will need to continue to hold discussions about these items. An election was held for both the chair and vice chair positions. Our new vice chair is Mark MacIver (thank you to Deputy Mayor MacQuarrie for his efforts as vice chair). Joan agreed to stay on as chair to June as there wasn't a comfort level for a different community member to chair (and they would like to learn more before they take on that kind of position).

(chair Joan MacDonald - vice chair Mark MacIver)

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 am continuing to work with the Cape Breton Partnership to discuss our housing survey. It concludes in 2 days, and we will have the CBP report the results to council

once they have had a chance to study the survey outcomes. We can also discuss the best options for relaying this information to developers/investors and the public/stakeholders.

Rotary Project – NSTIR

A consultation meeting was held virtually on April 15 with NSTIR senior staff to review the tentative draft plans for the replacement of the rotary. Council and senior staff had the opportunity to provide feedback with regard to these plans.

Destination Cape Breton Association

We have a virtual meeting on April 21st and again on April 22nd (in person in Port Hawkesbury). Any updates will be made in next COW report.

Accessibility Advisory Meeting

We have a meeting scheduled for April 22nd. Any updates will be made in the next COW report.

Economic Development Advisory Meeting

At our first meeting we reviewed our Town projects and discussed our Terms of Reference and discussed some go-forwards for our next meeting. We are scheduled to meet next on April 28th. This meeting update will be provided in my next COW report. Our chair and vice chair were elected as well.

(chair) Kevin MacEachern (vice chair) Ashley Taylor

Business Breakfast

This was a suggestion that came from our Economic Development Advisory Meeting. It was held on the morning of April 7th at Barykin Bistro and was well attended by members of the SACC, various development agencies, business leaders, and some elected leaders too. Topics we discussed were the “State of the Strait” and the “Gateway project” and how we might create a more engaged business community in our Strait Region.