

## **Committee of the Whole**

### **Committee Updates November 16/21**

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

##### **One Cape Breton: Gateway Project**

The Cape Breton Partnership lead team continues to work to secure funding for project scoping. At this point in time, funding requests are in the process of going out to the 5 First Nation Communities of Unama'kik, and all 5 municipalities have committed to a contribution. A formal funding request has been made to ACOA, and once there is uptake, funding will be requested from all community/local project partners. Further updates will be provided as information becomes available.

##### **Housing Advisory Committee (Port Hawkesbury)**

The last housing meeting held on November 4<sup>th</sup> included a robust conversation about the future of the committee. Members discussed opportunities around the survey results and potentially partnering with the Strait Area Chamber of Commerce (possibly the Cape Breton Partnership and others) to host a "State of the Strait – housing version". Other ideas were to bring the survey results to a local housing developer/landlord to better understand the information and how it might help this committee and the Town to work with other investors/developers to grow our housing stock and meet more housing needs. There was also a discussion around exploring funding opportunities, and the possibility of hiring a housing navigator. Additionally, the need for a new social enterprise and/or not-for-profit to focus solely on housing projects for Port Hawkesbury (pros and cons) was discussed. Other existing entities who's focus is housing were also discussed (pros and cons).

(Chair – John Ouellette)

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

Our team has determined that our first must-win battle is to plan and implement a session to better understand our region's existing innovators – particularly in the oceans and clean tech industries. A potential location for this might potentially be the new innovation space at the Creamery.

Ongoing planning will continue for an annual innovators retreat and to work with stakeholders currently involved in the Marine Innovation Centre located at the Port Hawkesbury Waterfront. The two strategies that the team is developing to grow our Innovation ecosystem here in the Cape Breton Strait region: (a) is to work on retention/attraction of IDE - Innovation Driven Enterprises and Entrepreneurs - (Innovators Retreat) and (b) also the opportunity to build capacity for home-grown Innovation (Marine Innovation Centre). Whereas the Innovators retreat can be used as a tool to better understand our IDE “customer” and how to support them, and also the retreat can allow us to invite national and global innovators (as its continues to grow momentum) to showcase our region as a place to innovate. The REAP program is tentatively going to draw to a close in January 2022, with the team’s MWBs continuing into 2022.

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

The Airport meeting to discuss the ongoing plan to host a strategic planning session has not yet been set, however, dates will be sent this week for a potential meeting in late November/early December. Carly Appleton from the Cape Breton Partnership will attend and assist with these plans with the intent to host the strategic planning session in late January and/or early February.

It is hoped that the next committee meeting to discuss the strategic planning session can be held at the airport itself once a date is determined.

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(Chair: Brenda Chisholm-Beaton, Vice Chair: Amanda Mombourquette)

### **NSFM Executive Board Meetings**

As Towns Caucus Chair, I attend our NSFM virtual executive board, and also chaired the final Town’s Caucus meeting during the Fall Convention hosted in early November. I also was on the organizing committee for the NSFM Fall convention (virtual), and chaired several session, as well as giving a presentation with Warden Bruce Morrision during the Collaboration Success Stories session on the topic of: the One Cape Breton/One Unama’ki initiative. Lastly, I’ve put my name forward for vice president of NSFM; my nomination was accepted, and I was officially accepted as the Vice President of the NSFM at the AGM on Friday November 5<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Deputy Mayor Aucoin and Councillor Hughie MacDougall for taking part in the Fall Convention – there

was lots of great information and learning opportunities, and a great investment of time to the benefit of our Town.

(Chair/President – Mayor Amanda McDougall – CBRM Vice-chair/Vice-President Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton, Town of Port Hawkesbury).

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

We are in the process of planning a multi-day session in February 2022 for Indigenous Mentorship and creating a “toolkit” for Indigenous mentorship too. We’re planning another more general one-day session with various mentorship sessions (general). We will be matching one-on-one mentorees in December/January that will conclude for April 2022. We hope to have 100 women engaged (in total) between all programs. The project end date will be March with reporting occurring in April 2022.

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

### **Strait Richmond Housing Matters Coalition**

Meeting was held November 10<sup>th</sup>; regular updates were provided (service based counts project, homelessness coordinator, Build Together, Fresh Start, Rent Control letter, etc.). Warden Mombourquette updated the group regarding the Walter Fougere School. We had a presentation from guest speakers from Municipal Affairs (Tatiana Fraser) and Rural Cape Breton Living Society (Jill Gardiner). Next meeting date is: December 8th. I chaired the second half of the meeting as Amanda had to leave, and Celeste was having connectivity issues.

(Chair – Amanda Mombourquette, co-chair – Celeste Gotell)

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

Our last meeting was October 28<sup>th</sup>, and we had several members from NSHA there to discuss our application with them that was submitted some time ago. It was a great discussion, and we will continue to connect with NSHA about doing things differently and coming up with nimble solutions for Cape Breton South as we work towards filling the positions needing via recruitment. We also discussed various opportunities around recruitment events, and Maggie made herself available to provide a navigator report.

I also met (as part of the Navigator Hiring subcommittee) on November 9<sup>th</sup>. We were able to present an offer to our candidate of choice, and she's accepted. Her name is Gina MacDonald, and we are super excited to have her begin the role as our CBSRH Navigator. Maggie MacDonald will definitely be missed, and we're grateful she's remained part time to assist as we were in the process of finding a replacement.

(Chair – Juanita Mombourquette, co-chair – Amanda Mombourquette)

### **Waterfront Advisory Committee**

Our waterfront meeting was re-scheduled to Monday November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Funding opportunities were discussed as well, as project submissions (asphalt work, purchase of kiosks, etc.). Terry discussed various project updates relating to the waterfront, and a significant amount of time was focussed on Sunset Park. Vicki was nominated as chair, and she accepted, as well as being approved by motion from the committee. Councillor MacIver noted that elected officials should not chair advisory committees to council, but would be willing to assist as co-chair when needed. Vicki recruited a few committee members to form a sub-committee to look at the potential for new signage. The opportunities to increase community engagement through multiple modes of communication (like a newsletter, podcast, etc.) were discussed. No one was forthcoming to spearhead the development of a communication strategy; however the committee agreed to continue discussions and work on developing the concept at subsequent meetings. Councillor MacIver also noted the idea of dedications on outdoor furniture (like benches) could be used as a way to fund some of the revitalization at the waterfront. Kilmer also noted that the town should consider if re-opening access to the other side of the waterfront adjacent to Superport might be an idea worth exploring.

(Chair – Vicki Persig; co-chair - Mark MacIver)

### **Destination Cape Breton Association**

I've recently put my name forward for another 3-year term on DCBA and currently hold the executive board position of secretary. I attended a meeting in Baddeck on October 21<sup>st</sup>, where the CEO Terry Smith gave the board a report on the Island's tourism season; some of the report indicated that July wasn't a great month for the industry, but August and September numbers were much better. Some of the slow July numbers were attributed to a bit of

confusion around public health protocols and reopening of tourism in NS more generally.

(Chair, Bruce Morrison, Warden Victoria County)

### **Accessibility Advisory Meeting**

We have been meeting weekly on Mondays as a working committee to conduct research and implement community engagement strategies in preparation for our Accessibility plan. Our social media page currently has 185 citizen members, and conversations are continuing to be super engaging). Gordie is working on supplying Matthew with photo content from various facilities around town, and Matt is posting to garner citizen feedback regarding accessibility issues, opportunities and basic comments. Over the course of the last 4 weekly meetings we have set a tentative timeline to the keep our committee on track to be able to provide Council with a draft plan for February 2022, with some flexibility for changes in time for the April 2022 deadline. In lieu of this past Monday's meeting, we've asked committee members for feedback on our plan for one-on-one and focus group research plans. Next Monday we plan to solidify our survey.

(Co-chairs: Matthew Higgins and Brenda Chisholm-Beaton).

### **Economic Development Advisory Meeting**

Our meeting for this month was deferred to next month, meeting to be determined.

(Chair) Kevin MacEachern (vice chair) Ashley Taylor

### **Cape Breton Regional Enterprise Network**

Next meeting is yet to be determined. Any reports will follow.

(Chair – Bruce Morrison)

### **Strait Area Chiefs Mayors and Wardens of the Strait**

We are still working on setting up a meeting date, if sometime in early December isn't feasible we will aim for in the New Year. Updates to follow.

(Chair – Mayor Laurie Boucher – Town of Antigonish)

## **Other work:**

**NSCC Flag Raising** – I was honoured to take part in the celebrations of our NSCC Strait Area Campus' 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which included a wonderful opening prayer from Mi'kma'q Elder Judy, smudging by Bryson Sylliboy and a flag raising. We are so fortunate to have this milestone to celebrate and we hope to celebrate many more!

**Seasonal Services:** Meetings are continuing – Council can watch for the social media components now that Remembrance Day has concluded (later this week).

**Offshore wind file:** We have a significant task force that has formed, with the Strait Area Chamber of Commerce as the lead, and others from NSBI, NSCC, ACOA and the Cape Breton Partnership to continue this valuable work. I participate in calls or meetings when my schedule allows. I will be attending a renewables conference next week in Halifax, and our task team has arranged to meet with a few MLAs and Ministers while there to discuss the potential of offshore wind.

**Port Hawkesbury Sports Wall of Fame** – The event had a fantastic turn out of all ages, and it was well organized. I would invite Council to check out the new renderings of the inductees when time allows. The inductees and their families were very pleased with the ceremony and the recognition. My thanks to the Sports Wall of Fame Committee and to Deputy Mayor Aucoin for attending. I was also happy to share a message on behalf of Councillor MacDougall who wanted to attend but couldn't due to work.

**Municipal Government Letters** – (Update when I was invited on September 23rd to TEC - Port Hawkesbury - to present/discuss Municipal government to the Grade 8 French Immersion students). I was able to touch base with Stephanie and the students will be sending letters to our council, I'm happy to share when these are received.

**Meeting with Minister Susan Corkum-Greek** - Our reap team was fortunate to meet November 16<sup>th</sup> with Minister Corkum-Greek to review our journey with the REAP program and our must win battle(s). It was held at the NSCC Campus and we had great attendance and great discussions about how we can

grow the Cape Breton/Strait region and thrive as a more “rural” region with a focus on building up our innovation ecosystem.

**Ceilidh Christmas Market** – I’ve been working with a few key planners to host a market on November 27<sup>th</sup>, we are looking for volunteers if anyone from council wishes to come out to help and participate. It runs from 10am to 3pm. This is a great opportunity to boost supporting local growers, bakers, builders and small-scale entrepreneurs!

**Marine Innovation Centre** – I took part in a session on November 10<sup>th</sup>, which was hosted collaboratively by the Cape Breton Partnership, the Town and NSCC to discuss the future of this space. Lots of potential stakeholders/partners were present from various communities (like Potlotek, Richmond), industries (Port Hawkesbury Paper, Strait of Canso Superport), innovation partners/funders (Cove, Ignite, Innovacorp) and others (members of the Waterfront Development Committee and the Strait of Canso Yacht Club). It was a great session, and I will provide further information on this file as it becomes available.

**Remembrance Day** – I was honoured to represent the Town, with our MLA and the honorable Deputy Premier Allan MacMaster at Legion Branch 43 during Remembrance Day. It was a safe indoors ceremony that was live streamed considering the continuing seriousness of Covid 19 and in the interest of public safety.

**Reeves Street** – Town staff and Reeves Street committee members and I met with Don Mills and some representatives from Nova Scotia Public Works to discuss community engagement methods to measure the overall success of Reeves Street (from multiple perspectives). Will share more info as it becomes available.

**Michael and Luna** – On November 9<sup>th</sup>, I met Michael and Luna as they crossed the causeway into Cape Breton to give them a warm welcome to our Island. Both are on the tail end of a Canada-wide cross-national walk to raise awareness and funds for the reforestation of the Scottish Highlands. Note: I connected with Inverness Council to see if they’d like to join, but they were unable). Follow their story at: <https://www.facebook.com/MichaelandLuna> )

