

Committee of the Whole
Committee Report/Updates
April 20/2022

By: Mayor Chisholm-Beaton

One Nova Scotia – REAP Project

Our team continues to meet bi-weekly and as needed. We are currently working on a joint proposal to submit a project to Onside for the “rising tIDE” fund creation and Apaqt Place (Innovation Centre). Our next meeting is tomorrow.

(Chair/Team Champion Brenda Chisholm-Beaton)

Allan J MacEachen Regional Airport.

We met March 22nd (in-person) and received a presentation from Jeremy Martell and Carly Appleton from the Cape Breton Partnership reviewing the feedback from the Allan J MacEachen Airport Strategy Session. We received an update from both user group and airport manager. We had an in camera session. We added \$5K to be added to budget.

We are working on our next airport meeting date (awaiting a date that will give us quorum).

Note: Chair/Vice Chair met with CBP staff to work on a strategy report March 16th, and will meet again to have one ready for the Airport Committee (and also to be made available to strategy session participants and to other stakeholders).

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

NSFM Executive Board Meetings

Provincial Code of Conduct working committee meetings continue (next meeting is today April 20th).

Work continues around the NSFM restructuring. Elected Council members participated in two more calls outlining the proposed NSFM restructuring/changes (March 16/17th via Zoom). I chaired the March 16th session. We held a Cape Breton/Strait regional meeting on April 8th (that I chaired as Vice-President) which was very engaging and well attended. We held a series of virtual NSFM board meetings and we hope to hold our next meeting in-person if possible. The Spring NSFM Conference is to be held on May 4-6 (White Point). Thus far, it will be attended by the Deputy Mayor – Jason Aucoin – and myself, representing the Town. We have

an upcoming NSFAM meeting on April 27 to discuss the non-resident deed transfer and property tax.

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

Cape Breton South Recruiting for Health

We held the Health Care Gala on April 7th and it was very well attended and organized (the award winners not in attendance had their awards distributed afterwards). It was great to see Deputy Mayor Aucoin and Councillor MacQuarrie in attendance. We've gotten excellent feedback from the event and we know that many of the health care professionals who attended and were acknowledged felt super appreciative.

Our last meeting was held March 24th. Councillor MacIver attended in my stead as alternate for the first hour, as I had another engagement. In the portion of the meeting I attended, the navigators report was reviewed as well as the upcoming Gala discussed. Also, a small executive was formed to be able to work directly with Gina our director on a weekly basis. I volunteered my name to sit on this executive board.

I will be attending a meeting with Co-chair Amanda Mombourquette and NSHA representative Michelle DePodesta on April 27th with regard to our CBSRH regional health care proposal.

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

Waterfront Advisory Committee

Our waterfront meeting was held on March 21st – it was in person at the Town's board room.

I was unable to attend but Councillor MacIver will provide the report.

Next meeting is TBD.

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

Accessibility Advisory Meeting

We continued to meet weekly (Monday evenings) to complete work and review draft PHAAC Accessibility Plan in advance of the March 29th Special Public. Cathy Cooke, Matthew and I worked to complete a draft that was submitted to Council on March 25th, and we also worked together on a presentation which we finalized at our March 28th meeting (held in-person at the Town board room).

The Special Public Meeting held March 29th went very well – the plan was well received by Council in attendance. The presentation was given by Co-chairs Matthew Higgins and I (Matthew did an excellent job) and PH staff and PHAAC member Gordie Snook (also an excellent job). No amendments were suggested by Council and council agreed to move the Plan forward for adoption at the April 5th Public Meeting. It was adopted unanimously by Council.

As a PHAAC going forward, we have designated the first Monday of each month (5pm-6pm) as our Monthly PHAAC meeting so we can maintain a consistent meeting time. Therefore our next meeting will be May 2nd, 2022.

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

Unity Drive: Joint Industrial Park Commission

The meeting scheduled for March 31st 2022 was rescheduled to April 28th, 2022. Report to follow in next month's report.

(Chair, Councillor Mark MacIver, Vice Chair; Councillor Mike Diggdon).

Other work:

Brezo Energy File:

Ivan continues to maintain regular communications with some members of our PH Economic Development Advisory Committee, as well as with Terry and I when needed – and as the project continues to progress, I've sent an update on this project to our MLA Allan MacMaster – as well – I asked Ivan to prepare an update to Council and it is as follows (as submitted via email April 19th 2022):

Dear Mayor Brenda,

Brezo Energy's project status as of April 19th is as follow:

- 1. A strong partnership with the largest shipyard in the Gulf of Mexico was forged. This was necessary for the construction of our Mobile Factories, since there is no local capability for that goal. Our plan is to bring our Mobile Factories to Nova Scotia and build the floaters here.*
- 2. An American university, in the top 3% of Research Excellence and recently awarded with the prestigious Carnegie R1 classification, invited Brezo Energy to establish a research center at their university.*

3. Conversations started with the Trade Commissioner Service of Canada, aiming to explore collaboration between Canada and USA for our project.

4. There is still zero information for the permit from Nova Scotia Department of Land & Forestry. Last week I received an email from the officer who was in charge of our file since June 2021, informing someone else was taking our file. I contacted the new person with no response. This point is becoming a concerning issue for people from out of Canada backing Brezo.

5. Based in the recent announcement by the Federal and Provincial government designing the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Board responsible for regulating some aspects of the offshore wind industry, we decided to hire our first Cape Bretoner. That first position will be confirmed as soon as we can talk to the local authorities. Others will follow through the year.

6. Brezo Energy is about to sign a large contract with a global developer with plants all over the world, for developing their first power plant in Canada. Negotiations have been underway for a few months, and I do expect to sign the contract soon. If confirmed, that could be really good for our region.

Sincerely,

Ivan

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Offshore wind file: The task force continues to learn more about offshore wind, and connect with key stakeholders. We have established regular meeting times for the task force – which is the first Tuesdays of each month with a working group meeting on the third Tuesdays of each month. We are preparing a proposal to establish an offshore wind research centre here in the Strait Region. We've attended multiple meetings with stakeholders (when needed) and will be presenting on the OSW opportunity to Pitu'paq and Potlotek First Nation Community later this month.

REAP Presentations: Richmond County Council has requested our REAP team to present to them (thus far the date looks like it may be in the Fall 2022).

Connector Program: I am participating in the Cape Breton Partnership Connector Program.

Welcome Network: I am participating still in a campaign that welcomes newcomers with the Cape Breton Partnership (to be used on social media).

Pitu'paq: I attended the monthly meeting held on March 25th – we hosted it in the Boardroom in the Civic Centre (Port Hawkesbury) (hybrid – some in person and some virtual). The next meeting will be held virtually (due to covid challenges) April 21st (we hope to host a future meeting in person at Friends United).

State of the Strait: This was an excellent Chamber of Commerce Event held March 30th – that was attended by myself and Deputy Mayor Aucoin. Great presentations on housing, economic development and renewables. The keynote speaker was Scott Urquhart who spoke about the Offshore Wind as an emerging industry here in the Strait of Canso. A very optimistic event that was well attended with great information shared.

Everwind Fuels: I participated in a meeting with Everwind Fuels after State of the Strait to learn more about the plans for hydrogen and the recent acquisition of Nustar Energy.

Youth Project: I am continuing to work with Madonna Doucette and other community leaders to host monthly 2SLGBTQ+ drop in sessions. A session was hosted March 24th at the Port Hawkesbury Fire Hall and was very well attended with about 40 youth from ages 10-20 and about 8 adult mentors. The youth discussed some ideas of what they'd like to do as a group in the future – they came up with the social media name “Under the Rainbow Umbrella” (URU) (You are You) (next session TBD).

Cadets Youth Presentation: I was invited as a guest speaker to present to the Cadets on the topic of leadership on March 24th, 2022. Participation was virtual –lots of great questions from the youth on the topic of leadership and volunteerism.

Festival of the Strait: I participated in a festival meeting May 4th – lots of wonderful ideas shared for this summer's upcoming festival.

Island-wide Municipal First Nations Cape Breton/Unama'ki call: The CBP organized an island-wide call on April 11th, 2022 - with Chiefs/Mayors/Wardens and their caos as well as MPs and MLAs from the island. Lots of great information and joint issues discussed regarding Covid recovery, need for housing, as well as future economic opportunities.

Cepi Meeting: This was held on April 13th – and chaired by Senator Daniel Christmas. It was a positive meeting and budget and workplans were reviewed, as well as presentations made – one of particular interest was the opportunity around sports fishing in the Bras d'Or and how this might be sustainably developed.

Mentorship Project/Gender Equity: This project wrapped up at the end of March and the post-study report was submitted to the Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia. Overall, we were able to engage more than 400 women, girls and differently-gendered community members over the past year, and the project components/events were well attended and impactful. Lots of gratitude to the Rural Communities Foundation, our multiple partners and the members of Government FOCUS who all collaborated to make this project possible.

Coady Institute – future partnerships: On March 31st I had a great virtual call with Robin and Sarika and how we might be able to partner in the future regarding leadership for women.