

**Committee of the Whole
Committee Report/Updates
January 18/2022
By: Mayor Chisholm-Beaton**

One Cape Breton: Gateway Project

The Cape Breton Partnership continues to lead this file with a team of local leaders and stakeholders. ACOA now has the funding application. It is hoped that we can have a successful application to begin scoping out this project and what it can entail over a multi-year period. Megan Watt – our Economic Development Officer, gave a brief overview of this project and others at our Public Meeting on January 4th. I'll keep Council updated as this file progresses.

Housing Advisory Committee (Port Hawkesbury)

Our next meeting is set for January 19th, so the update will be on next month's report.

(Chair – John Ouellette)

One Nova Scotia – REAP Project

We have a meeting set with our Cape Breton Strait REAP team for January 20th, to discuss the upcoming final workshop to be held February 10th and 11th next month. We've been working with Shawn Green who is a long-standing Innovation-driven business leader from Cape Breton. He has made great progress to date on our surveys to Innovation entrepreneurs from Cape Breton and the Strait area, the IDE regional database is coming along, and work will be discussed at our next meeting regarding the potential around a focus group session. Another topic that is being discussed is around the need for funding to assist IDEs once they are past the start-up phase and to allow for them to grow. We know through Shawn's work with us that our region actually has an established IDE base that has IDEs that fall into multiple phases along the IDE continuum from start-ups to mature IDEs – some of which had been sold or moved, with some IDE leaders moving on to other IDEs. Being able to capture this IDE footprint, to begin fostering a supportive network of IDEs as an IDE community, and to learn how to better support them will be key to our must-win battles over time. I will have more in the next report.

(Chair/Champion Brenda Chisholm-Beaton)

Allan J MacEachen Regional Airport.

The Airport meeting to discuss the design of the strategic planning session is set for January 25th. Carly Appleton from the Cape Breton Partnership will attend and assist with these plans with the intent to help host the strategic planning session (date for February not yet known). Will have more to report on for the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

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

NSFM Executive Board Meetings

We have our next board meeting scheduled for January 20th. I also wanted to note that I have been approved to sit with Mayor Pam Mood and others on the Provincial Code of Conduct working committee. This work will take approximately a year before we have something that can be brought to the legislature.

(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 met Jan 16th to discuss how we might pivot considering the high numbers of covid we still have in the province. We are continuing to work on an Indigenous Mentorship “toolkit” and to plan a weekend session (date to be determined) in March. We’re planning a virtual session with project partners on Inclusive Communities and Allyship for women in March. We will be meeting next week to discussing the completion of one-on-one mentor-mentee matches that will continue to March 31st. Lastly, we are going to plan small-scale mentor events in different communities of Eastern Nova Scotia in February and March. We hope to have 100 women engaged (in total) between all programs/events. The project report is due April 2022.

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

Cape Breton South Recruiting for Health

Our next meeting is January 20th, and meeting outcomes will be reported on the next COW report next month. I also am scheduled to have a meeting with Gina MacDoanld – the new CBSRH navigator, to discuss the group and next steps for 2022.

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

Waterfront Advisory Committee

Our waterfront meeting scheduled for January 17th will be re-scheduled, and if possible, outcomes will be reported on next month's COW report to Council.

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

Accessibility Advisory Meeting

We are continuing to meet weekly (Monday evenings) to conduct work and research in preparation for our draft Accessibility plan. Thus far we have over 50 respondents for the survey (it will run to the end of January). We have almost completed 10 one-on-one interviews. We are planning one-on-one sessions with various stakeholders. Our social media page continues to be active. Matthew and Cathy are doing amazing work with posts/responses and citizen engagement. We've revised our committee timeline and at this point in time we should be on track to present a draft plan for March COW, with some flexibility for changes in time for the April Public meeting. We hosted a member of Victoria County – who will continue to participate to help with their own accessibility plan. This month the research focus will be on accessibility and transportation, municipal services/programs, and local businesses (re: access).

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

Economic Development Advisory Meeting

Our meeting was held on January 12th. Erin provided an update on economic development projects being led currently by the town. Megan Kevin Iaian and I provided some updates re: offshore wind. Kevin provided an update regarding the Foodbank renovations. Megan gave a presentation regarding the Island-wide strategy currently under design by the Cape Breton Partnership. I also provided an update regarding the MIT REAP project and the work of our Cape Breton Strait REAP team.

(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. Updates to follow.

(Chair – Mayor Laurie Boucher – Town of Antigonish)

Unity Drive: Joint Industrial Park Meeting

I am very excited about the upcoming meeting set for January 27. I had a great conversation with Warden Mombourquette and we are both looking forward to working together with both councils to see some positive things happen with this property. Report on this meeting will be on next month's COW report.

Other work:

Seasonal Services: This program helped 149 households in total, and I was proud to be a part of this committee that made a difference over the holidays for vulnerable households.

Call with Allan MacMaster: Had the opportunity to talk to Deputy Premier MacMaster on the topic of housing, with Deputy Mayor Aucoin in attendance.

Trail Walk with Mike Kelloway: This was planned with Larry MacKeigan and Deputy Mayor Aucoin to do a live video of the new trail developments but the rising numbers forced us to postpone – date to be determined.

Foodbank Announcement: I participated in a live announcement with Mike Kelloway and the chair of the Port Hawkesbury Foodbank, Kevin MacEachern, and Deputy Mayor Aucoin, to discuss the \$144K in Federal funding that will help to renovate the Port Hawkesbury Food Bank building.

Offshore wind file: The task force continues to learn more about Offshore wind, and connect with key stakeholders. I participate in calls or meetings when my schedule allowed for it. Of these meetings, I was able to participate on calls with MP Mike Kelloway, Senator Daniel Christmas, as well as some industry leaders in Offshore wind.

Cape Breton Wide Call: The Cape Breton Partnership hosted an Island-wide call on January 14th with all of the Chiefs, Mayors, Wardens, MLAs, Provincial Ministers and both Cape Breton MPs to discuss the ongoing challenges of Covid 19. I brought up the challenges of revenue losses due to Covid, challenges with housing, challenges for businesses, tourism recovery, ICIP funding/need, food security and mental health challenges.

Meeting with new YMCA Cape Breton CEO – I had the opportunity to meet with the new CEO of the YMCA, Sabrina Vatcher. They will be running the NS works program out of the Civic Centre for the next 6 months.

Developer Meeting: We had a meeting this month with a developer to promote the town as a place for new housing projects.

Call with Acting CEO of the Cape Breton Partnership – had the opportunity to speak with Tyler Mattheis – we were joined with Warden Momborquette, to discuss both Richmond and Port Hawkesbury’s strategic priorities and possible files of joint interest. Tyler reviewed some of the work the CBP is engaged with.

Year in Review: I completed a year-in-review with the help of Erin MacEachen and senior staff. (will also be included to be submitted as part of this COW report).