

Committee of the Whole

Committee Report/Updates – Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton

October 18/2022

Submitted to Council

One Nova Scotia – REAP Project

Our team continue to move forward the Must Win Battles we have outlined in our executive summary, and the team champions and managers from all 5 NS teams will be doing a 1-day workshop with NSCC on October 31st (in Halifax) to see how we can continue to support and further REAP team progress for all 5 teams – including Team Cape Breton Strait.

Several team members also continue to be active on the Offshore Wind File as this work is one of our Team’s “Must Win Battles” to see Offshore Wind and Green Hydrogen fostered in our region and a research centre established here that will also have a green hydrogen focus as well.

(Chair/Team Champion Brenda Chisholm-Beaton)

Allan J MacEachen Regional Airport

There wasn’t a quorum for the meeting on October 17th so it is going to be rescheduled. I will provide an update in the next COW report when we are able to hold the next meeting.

(Chair: Brenda Chisholm-Beaton, Vice Chair: Melanie Samson)

NSFM Executive Board Meetings

Provincial Code of Conduct working committee meetings continues. As of late – we discussed various delivery scenarios and next steps are to discuss potential funding scenarios that will help to determine which is the best funding/delivery scenario for NS Municipalities.

On the NSFM Board side, as part of the organizing committee for the Fall Conference – I would encourage those of you who want to attend to go, please get registered. Board meetings continued monthly and when needed throughout the fall. This may be of interest to council – there will be another thorough presentation of the NSFM structural changes at the Fall Conference and depending on the wishes of the membership, move to set another Members meeting to complete the process (date to be determined).

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

Cape Breton South Recruiting for Health

The executive members continue to meet with NS Health and Gina – our Director, on an as-needed basis. We also met as an executive on Oct 6 – including Gina – to discuss our CBSRH Terms of Reference and to update it – as well as to review and refine our meeting policies and practices. We plan to take recommended updates to the wider CBSRH group at a future meeting.

I continue to be part of a special committee working with members of NSH on hosting an engagement session (tentative Oct 25th) regarding health care delivery and community health and wellness in Cape Breton South with both health care professionals and stakeholders.

Gina continues to do great hands-on work in the community and work with both NSHA and our local professionals to better understand and implement recruiting strategies. Gina is also helping to organize a visit at the end of October.

With regard to the general committee – we met on September 22rd and Gina provided an update and we discussed stakeholder concerns around sensitive discussions about staff retention. CBSRH members recognize that health care recruitment and retention is complex as are the challenges, and will affirm to our stakeholders that we are here to help in any capacity needed as partners.

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

Accessibility Advisory Meeting

Our PHAAC met October 6th to review the accessibility work that was accomplished over the summer (as well as to have a refresher with the work we outlined in our Plan) and to determine some tangible next steps. Cathy kindly offered to give minute taking a try, and we hope to invite both Michelle Farrow – to discuss a plan for more inclusive rec activities for people and all the ways they move – and also the Chamber of Commerce and other potential stakeholders in our plan to discuss how we might work together. Next meeting is scheduled for November 7th (4:30pm-5:30pm)

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

Unity Drive: Joint Industrial Park Commission

We did not meet during the month of October, and our next meeting date is not yet set.

Destination Cape Breton Association

We continued to meet monthly – this month’s meeting (Oct 19th) will be in Port Hawkesbury (report to follow). DCBA CEO Terry Smith made a presentation to council regarding market levies and we will await the Province’s decision before we see what work will need to be done for the Island and the 5 Municipalities in the future.

(Chair: Bruce Morrison, Victoria County)

Cape Breton Regional Enterprise Network Liaison Committee

Our meeting scheduled for September 28th was postponed due to the issues created by Hurricane Fiona. When a new date is set, I will be happy to provide a report post-meeting (TBD).

(Chair: Bruce Morrison, Victoria County)

Pitu’paq

Our meetings were delayed also due to Hurricane Fiona. We continue to work together via email on our special project around treaty education and truth and reconciliation. We hope to complete a survey to distribute to find out what interest there may be for participation (tentative for spring 2023).

(Chair: Shirley MacNamara)

Offshore wind Task Force

The task force continues to learn more about offshore wind, and connect with key stakeholders. We hold regular meeting times for the task force (each first Tuesdays and a working group meeting sometimes on the third Tuesday of every month to prepare the agenda/minutes for following meeting). Future stakeholder meetings are planned for Potlotek (who have had a recent election and it is prudent to present to the new elected officials), and are still in the process of planning to present at Victoria County Council and Paqtnkek in the future (TBD). We were pleased that the Province has announced green hydrogen and OSW targets.

(Co-Chairs: Amanda Mombourquette and Brenda Chisholm-Beaton)

Other work:

Offshore Wind Announcement: I was invited by the Premiers office to attend the offshore wind announcement held at Cove (HRM) on September 20th

Mike Kelloway: Had a virtual meeting with Mike Kelloway to discuss progress made to date regarding the Offshore Wind Taskforce.

EMO Preparations: I worked with senior staff on EMO preparation plans for Port Hawkesbury in advance of Hurricane Fiona. I also communicated with various EMO stakeholders like Chief Donald MacDonald from the Port Hawkesbury Volunteer Fire Department, as well as others to ensure things were in order and/or to see if anything was needed. I also reached out to our neighbouring Municipalities and First Nation leaders to check in prior to the hurricane as well, and also with some leaders post hurricane to check in. We were happy to be able to assist when needed in the days that followed the storm for citizens living in the Strait region.

Media Coverage – Hurricane Fiona: I did several television and radio interviews regarding pre- during- and post-Hurricane Fiona and the EMO preparations and response by the Town of Port Hawkesbury.

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation: On September 30th – we held a flag-raising ceremony at the Civic Centre and were fortunate to have Mi'kmaq leader Bryson Sylliboy attend to speak on ways we can all be allies in truth and reconciliation each and every day. We raised the Mi'kmaq Nation flag as per motion of council, and it remained raised for the month of October.

Housing Pilot Project Meeting (Oct 11): We had a positive meeting/brainstorming session with New Dawn reps and members of council, the chamber of commerce, and other housing stakeholders. The key goal was to explore potential strategies to meet Port Hawkesbury's housing needs and to look at short, medium and long term goals to work into a housing strategy plan that will help move the needle on housing for the town and that can be grown to move the needle on housing for the Cape Breton south Region.

Meeting Councillor Blaine MacQuarrie (Oct 12): To discuss potential letter re: Dr. Atul – update post-meeting was sent to council via email. Terry attended the meeting as well.

Committee Recommendations Meeting (Oct 12): A meeting was held of the special committee (Councillors Hughie MacDougall, Mark MacIver and I) to finalize our recommendations and to put these into a report to be submitted with our upcoming COW package for Council consideration.

Marine Renewables Canada Conference: I have been asked along with co-chair Amanda Mombourquette to chair a session at the upcoming Marine Renewables Canada Conference this November. We will work with the Taskforce and Marine Renewables Canada to prepare for this opportunity.

Everwind Fuels: I was asked to attend a dinner hosted by Premier Houston by the team at Everwind to represent the Town at their table (held in Halifax on October 18th).