

Committee of the Whole

Committee Report/Updates – Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton

November 15/2022

Submitted to Council

One Nova Scotia – REAP Project

All five NS teams participated in a 1-day workshop with NSCC on October 31st (in Halifax) to see how we can continue to further REAP team progress for all 5 teams – including Team Cape Breton Strait. The summary of the workshop will be shared with all five teams when completed by NSCC. Additionally, several team members also continue to be active on the Offshore Wind File as one of our Team’s “Must Win Battles” is 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. Any movement on this Must Win Battle via the OSW/Green Hydrogen Research Centre will be reported to Council.

(Chair/Team Champion Brenda Chisholm-Beaton)

Allan J MacEachen Regional Airport

There is yet to be a reschedule date set (tbd). I will provide an update in the next COW report when we are able to hold the next meeting. As a committee update, CAO of Inverness County has informed the Town that there are two new elected representatives that will sit on this committee from Inverness County: Warden Bonny MacIssac and Councillor Blair Phillips.

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

NSFM Executive Board Meetings

Provincial Code of Conduct working committee meetings continues (next meeting is tomorrow). We continue to discussed various delivery and costing scenarios and next steps will be to share these with the full membership for feedback in the coming months.

On the NSFM Board side, we held a very successful Fall Conference – thanks for CAO Terry Doyle and outgoing Deputy Mayor Jason Aucoin for attending and supporting me during my official nomination and acclamation as the incoming NSFM President. At the conference, several Caucus meetings were held (I joined the Town’s Caucus). Congratulations to Jason Aucoin for his appointment to the Town’s Caucus executive. I know Jason will bring lots of knowledge to the table for the issues and opportunities in our Towns. Also of interest, our AGM was held, and a successful motion to extend the NSFM priorities was approved (for the following 12 months).

Just a little information as well in my new role as President, I will be attending advocacy days in Ottawa Dec 6-9th hosted by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. I understand that the new role as president will require 3 trips to Ottawa throughout the next 12 months as the president must serve on the FCM executive (the Dec trip being one of these). This travel will be of course covered by NSF. I would like to extend a thank you to our new Deputy Mayor Hughie MacDougall for his support in taking on this new role, during the year he serves as Deputy Mayor. Your offer to help support any mayoral duties required when I'm overbooked in my schedule is very much appreciated.

We have several new members as well to the NSF board. Council may be interested to note, and to congratulate Strait Cape Breton region members to the NSF executive board: Mayor Laurie Boucher – Town of Antigonish and Warden Bruce Morrison – Victoria County Council.

Also of note : a special public meeting for all NSF members will be held in the new year to determine next steps on the proposed structural changes. (Date to be determined).

(Chair/President – Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton, Town of Port Hawkesbury, Vice-chair/Vice-President: Mayor Carolyn Boliver-Getson).

Cape Breton South Recruiting for Health

The executive members continue to meet with NS Health and Gina – our Director, on an as-needed basis. CBSRH Terms of Reference updating is part of the work currently under way. 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 who hosted an engagement session on Oct 25th regarding health care delivery and community health and wellness in Cape Breton South with both health care professionals and stakeholders – these sessions were hosted in both the Port Hawkesbury and Richmond County locations. We are continuing to review the data collected at the sessions.

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 working on a rescheduled physician training visit this upcoming weekend. I will be attending the welcome dinner hosted in St Peters this upcoming Friday.

With regard to the CBSRH general committee meeting – we will meet next on November 24th (report to follow next month).

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

Accessibility Advisory Meeting

We have invited Michelle Farrow to our next meeting (date yet to be determined) – to have Michelle review the current town offerings for recreation and to identify gaps or opportunities and overall – to discuss a plan for more inclusive recreation activities for people in Port Hawkesbury and all the ways they move, regardless of age or level of ability. We also discussed as a committee – understanding that there has been a new call-out for local committee members for interest, that we should wait to see if new members for the PHAAC come forward so they too can be part of the conversation with Michelle, and to plan a short orientation prior to the next meeting with Gordie, Matthew and Brenda.

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

Unity Drive: Joint Industrial Park Commission

We did not meet during the month of November; the next meeting date is yet to be determined.

(Chair: Mark MacIver, Town of Port Hawkesbury)

Destination Cape Breton Association

Based on the DCBA CEO Terry Smith presented to council last month, Council supported the standardization of a 3% levy rate along with the rest of the Cape Breton municipalities, as well as to remove the 10-room threshold for collecting levies. The Province is currently in the process of passing legislation that provides more enabling legislation for municipalities to determine levy rates and levy thresholds.

The DCBA AGM was held October 19th, and outgoing chair ceded the position to incoming chair Rodney Chaisson, and outgoing vice-chair Rodney to incoming vice-chair Brenda Chisholm-Beaton – approved by motion at the AGM by the voting membership.

(Chair: Rodney Chaisson; Vice-chair: Brenda Chisholm-Beaton)

Cape Breton Regional Enterprise Network Liaison Committee

A new meeting date is not yet set. I will be happy to provide a report post-meeting (in the appropriate future COW report).

(Chair: Bruce Morrison, Victoria County)

Pitu'paq

We continue to meet monthly (October 28th was date of most recent meeting held in Membertou – I attended virtually) and we continue to discuss the potential work we can do with partners with Truth and Reconciliation. We continue to work on a survey to distribute to municipal and First Nation elected officials as well as other T&R stakeholders to find out what interest there may be for participation (tentative survey for early new year and first T&R event planned for late spring 2023).

(Chair: Shirley MacNamara)

Offshore wind Task Force

The task force meeting was held November 8th virtually – and we continue to learn more about offshore wind, and connect with key stakeholders. We had the opportunity to present to Potlotek First Nation Council on October 25th and were pleased to have a member of Potlotek Council assigned to the task force. Future stakeholder meetings/presentations yet to be determined are with Victoria County Council and Paqtnkek. Both Warden Momborquette and I – as co-chairs – both attended the NetZero announcement via MP Mike Kelloway who announced 1.8 million investment to build capacity primarily in partnership with UNIR and with First Nation Communities as well as other community stakeholders. Councillor Aucoin also joined the announcement. With the committee reassignments, I also notified our executive that Councillor Blaine MacQuarrie would also be serving on the OSW task force as a council representative – so he can be added to the future meeting emailing list.

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

Other work:

Investors Summit (CBP): I attended the Investors summit which is a two-day summit held in Ingonish and hosted/organized by the Cape Breton Partnership. The dates were from November 19th/20th and it was well-attended and we heard lots of wonderful updates regarding investments from all across Cape Breton Unama'kik.

Offshore Wind Announcement: I was invited by MP Kelloway and NetZero to attend the offshore wind funding announcement held at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre (Port Hawkesbury) on November 10th that will see \$1.8 Million invested into capacity building in the region for offshore wind.

Meeting re: PVSC: I was invited by Jimmy McAlpine to attend a meeting to discuss our municipalities questions and concerns with PVSC – and the meeting was attended by CAO Terry Doyle and CFO Erin MacEachen. Held in the boardroom on .

Mike Kelloway: (Virtual Meeting) Mike Kelloway agreed to meet with Mayor, CAO and Councillor MacQuarrie to discuss Dr. Atul on October 27th – Mike Kelloway’s team were to follow up with Dr. Atul and his wife on their files re: immigrating to Canada, specifically to Port Hawkesbury Nova Scotia.

Mike Kelloway: We have a virtual meeting planned/set with Mike Kelloway to discuss Federal budget / priorities and to discuss Port Hawkesbury priorities on November 22nd. I encourage all of Council to attend (you’ve all received a calendar invite.

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.

NSFM Fall Convention: I attended the 4 day conventions – the first day was for registration and for caucus meetings and a meet and greet, and the remaining days were filled with keynote speakers, training sessions, networking opportunities, and political forum that included an address from Premier Houston, as well as the other party leaders/representatives (Liberal, NDP and Green). We were also fortunate to have a presentation on the final day by MP and Minister Sean Fraser who spoke to the importance of the federal work currently underway – especially with the Immigration file. Special thank you to Councillor Aucoin to organized a great prize giveaway that included a flight tour of Cape Breton from Celtic Air services overnight stay at the Maritime Inn and dinner at Millers and Breakfast at the Fleur de Lis. As the outgoing vice-President of NSFM – I was one of the key organizers for this conference and chaired many session and am pleased to report that we had amazing feedback from the membership about how wonderful it was to be together after a long hiatus due to Covid 19.

Committee Selection Meeting (Nov 7): A meeting was held to solidify committee (local and regional) selections – all committee assignments and/or reassignments were moved forward to the Public Meeting held the following night (Nov 8th).

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 22, 23 and 25. I attended a virtual meeting with Elisa Oberman and the panel presenters and co-chair Warden Amanda Momborquette to prepare for the conference as

panel hosts. We are looking forward to this opportunity to host a panel and to have the opportunity to discuss the OSW Task force and showcase the Strait of Canso.

Remembrance Day Ceremony (Tamarac Education Centre): I was invited to address the grade primary to grade 8 students at TEC on November 7th. In my address I spoke about the special decision made together by the Town of Port Hawkesbury and the Legion after World War 1 to rename many of the Town's streets (then named after colours) after the war heroes who lost their lives in World War 1.

Ribbon Cutting (Mark Farrow): I was invited by Mark and the Chamber of commerce to participate in the official business opening and ribbon cutting for Mark's new laundry and signage business – held at noontime on November 7th at the business location. Mark noted he was grateful for all the support Council demonstrated in assisting with the advertising sign and support in general as a business owner. Councillor and incoming Deputy Mayor was in attendance as well.

Honorable Bill Blair re: Disaster Financial Assistance and EMO (virtual): I was invited to attend a virtual meeting that addressed the outcomes and needs post-hurricane Fiona and ways we can be better prepared from an EMO perspective in the future. Many participants representing the Province were in attendance (Minister Lohr and others from municipal affairs and housing) as well as several municipal mayors and wardens (November 8th). I asked Minister Blair about potential response federally – as well as Minister Lohr Provincially) what would happen in the instance that the Canso Causeway – as a critical transportation connector – was damaged significantly due to a weather event – and that a firm EMO multi-stakeholder plan is needed so we are prepared – as well as a financial plan to repair or replace this important transportation asset that connect Cape Breton to mainland Nova Scotia. Minister Blair noted that it was very much on their radar prior to Fiona striking Atlantic Canada and that the Federal government would be prepared to assist if and when that kind of a disaster ever befell the Strait of Canso Causeway. Minister Lohr noted that there is an EMO plan for the causeway and both agreed to the importance of ensuring all of the surrounding local governments are aware of the plan to be prepared for future weather events.

Remembrance Day Ceremony (Veterans War Memorial Park): I was invited to address the veterans, legion members, fire fighters, rcmp, cadets and community members at this year's Remembrance day ceremony on November 11th. I also attended the community luncheon hosted by the Legion after the ceremony. Many remarked how wonderful it was to see so many in attendance. I was truly heartwarming to see so much support from the town and the region, and I know the legion truly appreciated it.

Friends United Truth and Reconciliation Talks: I was invited by Rolf Bowman to participate with Government FOCUS co-chair Karen Bernard to discuss the gender equity work we've done together with host Nancy Regan on November 14th at the Friends United location in Richmond County.

CoLab Housing Assessment Meeting (Virtual): I organized (on behalf of Council) to meet with CoLab consultants to discuss Port Hawkesbury housing needs. CoLab consultants are aiming to meet with every municipality so the Province of Nova Scotia can gain an accurate picture of how housing affects all municipalities from coast to coast to coast. The session was held November 14th attended by Deputy Mayor MacDougall and Councillors Aucoin and MacQuarrie.