

Committee of the Whole Committee Report/Updates

Submitted by: Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton

March 2023

Submitted to Council – March 21st, 2023.

Team Cape Breton Strait – Post-MIT REAP

We continue to meet regularly each second Thursday of each month to continue work on our must win battles. Work continues on the Rising tIDE fund (lead by Chad Munro - ongoing since December 2022) (investment fund to provide capital to mid-stage Innovation-based companies and to help assist with talent/expertise to get innovation companies to the next level of growth). The meeting request in with the Provincial Department of Economic Development with Minister Susan Corkum-Greek has not yet been set. REAP Team members continue to work with the Strait of Canso Offshore Wind Taskforce, on the Research centre must-win battle. More will be updated when there is progress made.

(Chair/Team Champion Brenda Chisholm-Beaton)

Allan J MacEachen Regional Airport

Our next meeting is March 29th - to begin budget work for the airport. Report to follow.

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

NSFM Board Position

Provincial Code of Conduct municipal consultation meetings continue. (I sit as a member on this advisory provincial board).

I met with PVSC as the President of NSFM on February 27th.

Met virtually with NSFM executive regarding CEO review planning on March 2.

Our next NSFM board meeting is to be held March 31, 2023.

Additional NSFM meetings:

As President – I attended FCM Committee-based Meetings virtually through out the month of February and general meetings were held in Ajax, Ontario March 6-9th – which I attended.

As President – I co-chaired the session on the Mass Casualty Commission with John MacKinnon, President of AMANS Virtually on March 15th.

As President – Meeting with MLA Kendra Coombes re: Municipal issues. March 20th.

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

Cape Breton South Recruiting for Health

An CBSRH meeting was held February 23rd, where we reviewed the Terms of Reference – and it will be resent to members and it is asked that any suggested changes/edits be made in the next few weeks before final adoption. CBSRH Manager Gina MacDonald provided her manager’s report.

On another note, our small executive is in the process of reconnecting with NS Health staff regarding reimagining health care in the Cape Breton South region and what that pilot can look like – and revisiting the community feedback we were able to gather in late 2022. This date for the re-grouping is set for March 30th. Any updates on this I’ll report on in future COW reports.

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

Port Hawkesbury Accessibility Advisory Meeting

Our PHAAC meeting was held Monday March 6th – we invited Michelle Farrow to attend and she discussed the various recreation/sports programs we regularly host as a town, and we chatted as a committee about how these may become more inclusive for people of all ages and all levels of abilities. We also discussed next steps. The next meeting we can set a few strategic goals for our committee and perhaps review the future of our current “big accessibility project” we’d like to see progress on – Granville Green – and also to see if there is a budget that we’ll need Council to consider for us to continue our committee/advisory work.

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

Unity Drive: Joint Industrial Park Commission

No formal meetings were held in February/March up to the time of this report; the next meeting date is yet to be determined.

(Chair: Mark MacIver, Town of Port Hawkesbury)

Destination Cape Breton Association

A DCBA meeting was held February 22nd, 2022. We heard the work plan presented by CEO Terry Smith, that I was happy to move approval of as the chair the industry committee (and to notify the board of the Industry committee’s approval. Of note, DCBA CEO and staff will

forward CAOs/Mayors/Wardens the new levy bylaw draft for consideration from each of the 5 municipalities.

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

Pitu'paq

Next meeting date is set for Friday March 24th (report to follow) (Chair: Shirley MacNamara)

Strait of Canso Offshore wind Task Force

The SCOSWTF executive met virtually Feb 24th to discuss a potential funding submission.

Our March 14th SCOWTF meeting was held virtually. Both chairs reviewed action items, and member updates were shared, and a quick review of next action steps for the group (Note: The SCOWTF executive met virtually March 10th to draft the March 14th Agenda). Working group/executive met March 21st to work on action items set at the general meeting on March 14th – and discuss new or emerging issues/opportunities.

Community consultation work: we are going to work on a presentation date with Antigonish Town and County to discuss the genesis and the mandate of the SCOWTF and to request if anyone from their municipality would be interested in joining the task force. We are also still working on a date with Paqtnkek First Nation.

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

Other work:

Housing Session (New Dawn): Council had a presentation from New Dawn regarding housing recommendations to move the needle on housing needs in Port Hawkesbury. This was held in the boardroom at the Civic Centre February 22nd – Council had some great conversations around next steps.

Oceans Supercluster: Andy Stone from Oceans Supercluster hosted an in-person meeting at the Civic Centre February 23rd and invited members from the SCOSWTF executive to provide information on Oceans Supercluster, the work they do, and to continue to keep the dialogue open with the SCOSWTF to see who the two entities can work together.

NetZero Atlantic: This was a meeting hosted by Netzero Atlantic in-person on February 23rd to get some feedback from the SCOSWTF and REAP team reps regarding the idea for an Offshore Wind Research Centre.

Barry Bernard/Red Tribe T&R Planning Meeting: This was a meeting held at Kiju's in Membertou regarding a Truth and Reconciliation plan for May 19/20th – Barry Bernard and Jeff Ward – along with members of Red Tribe Boxing - have offered to work with Councillor Aucoin and I with the planning required to make the first time the Mi'kmaq flag is raised on the fourth flag pole a truly meaningful event. Also met at Kiju's on March^h t 23rd to continue T&R flag raising event planning. Tentative plans for council consideration at this point: to host flag raising (with First Nation and Council officials) the afternoon of May 19th, followed by an evening dinner theatre with Mi'kmaq performances (drum theme also incorporating other cultures), with an all-Indigenous market on May 20th followed by the Red Tribe Boxing ticket the evening of May 20th. Dinner theatre profits (after costs) will be donated to women's shelter and/or a Residential School Survivor not-for-profit in Unama'kik. More will be shared as planning continues.

ORE Catapult: The Province of NS (NRR Dept) hosted a call on February 28th to discuss the ORE Catapult model currently being used in the UK and its merits for NS application. Warden Mombourquette was invited to represent Richmond and I was invited in my capacity as Mayor to participate. Others on the call were representatives from multiple orders of government and organizations working with green energy/renewables.

Green Hydrogen Sector Development Meeting: (March 2) This is one of several monthly meetings going forward with NRR staff/Province to ensure local municipalities are preparing and ready for this emerging sector. (specific participants are staff/elected from Richmond/Town of Port Hawkesbury/Guysborough). Another meeting was held on March 6th to discuss Landry Lake specifically.

Island Wide Cape Breton Chiefs/Mayors/Wardens/CAO/CEO Meetings: Victoria County was gracious enough to host an island-wide leaders meetings on March 2nd and 3rd in Baddeck at the Inverary Inn. We discussed mutual challenges and opportunities and many action plans were put forth. One of the actions coming forward that I've agreed to spearhead is a meeting request with the Unama'kik chiefs to discuss the potential of having another Island-Wide Leadership Summit (like the one hosted in Port Hawkesbury in 2017 and in Membertou in 2019). Any updates on any action items will be reported in upcoming COW reports.

Budget Meeting (Town of Port Hawkesbury): March 7 was the first of several budget meetings the Town Council and staff will require to work out its capital and operation budgets.

Cape Breton Partnership Immigration: March 8, spoke with Dani from the CBP about the process for employing immigrant workers to better understand the process.

Hydrogen Clean Fuels Workshop: March 9 there was an afternoon workshop with industry/developers of green energy, the Province, and other stakeholders. I participated virtually as an observer. Terry Doyle and Troy MacCulloch and Erin MacEachen gave a phenomenal presentation regarding the Landry Lake watershed and utility and vetted questions regarding water for industry attendees.

Housing Announcement – Port Hastings (NSCC): March 13 I was invited to take part in a significant housing development announcement for x5 40 unit complexes and several single family units in Port Hastings. This venture is being led by Independent Investment Nova Scotia.

Bear Head Energy / Ox2 Dinner (Town of Port Hawkesbury): March 13 I was invited to attend a presentation by Ox2, which highlighted the growing interest in significant offshore wind projects in Nova Scotia, particularly in the Strait Region.

Everwind Fuels Community Liaison Committee: (reoccurring Monthly meeting) I sit as a community member on the Everwind Fuels Community Liaison Committee, and we met virtually March 15th. We use this venue to share information, and to ask questions regarding their important green hydrogen file. If council has any questions you'd like me to take to subsequent meetings don't hesitate to ask/contact me. Also, if any citizens have questions, happy to take those forward as well.