

## **Committee of the Whole Committee Report/Updates September 19<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole 2023**

**Submitted by: Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton**

**July-September 2023**

Submitted to Council – September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (for COW Sept 19<sup>th</sup> 2023).

### **Allan J MacEachen Regional Airport**

Two different Allan J Airport meetings were held at the time of this report.

The first meeting was held on August 14<sup>th</sup> and the second on September 6<sup>th</sup>. At both meetings – the committee was provided an overview of the manager and facilities reports (no private user report was submitted during either meeting). Jet traffic was reported to be back to pre-covid numbers – and more will be reported after the tourism shoulder is concluded. Facilities report noted repairs both completed and those still needing to be done.

We reviewed the progress on the potential for funding to do work on the runway (more to come as this file receives updates from the Province). We also had financial reports at both meetings. Committee discussed a potential future on-site visit to the airport. The Allan J Airport Committee's next meeting will be December 6<sup>th</sup>, which will allow for a more fulsome discussion of the tourism shoulder and further discussions of the needed work on the runway and facilities.

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

### **NSFM Board Position**

**Provincial Code of Conduct Working Group:** the advisory committee is made up of provincial and municipal / municipal staff participants, and progress is ongoing. There is a survey that is currently active called the "Code of Conduct Recommendations and Framework Survey" that will run until September 25, 2023. I invite Council to check it out if they would like to provide feedback.

**Board Meetings:** We have been extremely busy with both full board meetings as well as executive board meetings as we are currently dealing with a historic time in the history of municipalities with Service Exchange negotiations currently being negotiated with the Province of Nova Scotia. (June 23, July 12, July 18, July 26, July 27, Aug 15, Aug 17, Aug 24, Aug 30, Sept 6).

**Other updates/pertinent NSFAM information/updates:** Nominations are now open for the 2023 Board of Directors Elections – which is a call for nominations for President, Vice President (all at large), as well as regional representatives for each electoral region. The strait/Cape Breton region will require 2 elected representatives in case anyone from council is interested. Deadline is September 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Prominent issues:** These continue to be around increased costs of policing (RCMP and Police contracts) and the fact that municipalities are not included/consulted during contract negotiations. Of course, we are seeing more and more extreme weather events and climate change is being acutely felt in the form of severe rainfalls that lead to several deaths and extreme damage, along with forest fires. The impact of oncoming hurricanes will also further impact municipalities. Ongoing conversations with the Province and the federal government will be needed with regard to climate change, emergency management and the work needed to mitigate future storms/extreme weather incidents and to aid in the recovery as well. Other topics include housing challenges for municipalities, infrastructure challenges, and more.

**Additional NSFAM meetings:** As President – I attended several special meetings with Mayors/Wardens across NS, as well as meetings via the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in my capacity as President. The following are a list of these meetings:

- **Meeting to review/garner feedback re: policing (virtual with NSFAM members) July 12<sup>th</sup>**
- **Service Exchange Update (virtual with Province and NSFAM AMANS members) July 26<sup>th</sup>**
- **Contract Policing and Public Safety Meeting with NS Municipalities, Aug 30**
- **FCM Atlantic Regional Caucus Meeting – Sept 6**
- **FCM Social Economic Development – Sept 7**
- **FCM Anti-Racism and Equity Committee – Sept 8**
- **FCM PTA Presidents and Executive Directors Meeting – Sept 12**
- **FCM Rural Forum – Sept 12**
- **FCM Committee of the Whole – Sept 13**
- **FCM Board of Directors Meeting – Sept 14**

### **Cape Breton South Recruiting for Health (CBSRH)**

Our small executive continues to reconnect when we need to – and we also had the opportunity as well to reconnecting with NS Health staff regarding the framing of a “reimagining health care in the Cape Breton South region” pilot and what it can look like. Most recent meeting was July 12, with work done via email over the past few months. The next

meeting date has tentatively been set for September 28<sup>th</sup> to determine next steps with NSHA and Cape Breton South.

Regular CBSRH Meetings: Meetings of CBSRH board that I was able to participate took place on July 6<sup>th</sup> and September 14<sup>th</sup>. I will include Gina, our CBSRH director's most recent Director's Report in this package for review. Great progress is being made, we had successful physician visits over the summer, and Gina will be participating in upcoming recruitment events. We will receive a presentation by Richmond Villa at our next meeting.

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

### **CEPI Senior Council**

The next CEPI Senior Council Meeting has not yet been set – but anticipated to be held in the Fall (TBD). Note – CEPI will be hosting a “Two-Eyed Seeing” Conference November 13-15 in Membertou; I plan on attending this conference to represent the Town. I'll report on this conference in the following COW report in November.

### **Pitu'paq Committee**

The Pitu'paq Committee continued to meet monthly throughout the summer, and continues to discuss environmental issues and potential projects that are important to Unama'kik and the Bras d'or lakes watershed/ecosystem. At the Pitu'paq meeting on Sept 8<sup>th</sup> we had the opportunity to view a draft promotional video highlighting the Bras d'or lakes watershed and ecosystem to raise awareness/support for its long-term sustainability. We also reviewed the budget and update regarding municipal contributions. I confirmed that Port Hawkesbury has committed to funding at the same rate as prior years.

Future goals are to participate in a blanket exercise and discuss the possibility of a youth retreat that will educate about the importance of the Bras d'or lakes/environmental stewardship. Next meeting is TBD.

(Chair – Shirley MacNamara)

### **Port Hawkesbury Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting**

At the time of this report, we had recessed for the summer as a committee. Our next PHAAC meeting will be held this upcoming Monday (Sept 18<sup>th</sup>). At this meeting, the accessibility work completed during the summer will be reviewed by staff for the benefit of the committee and the committee will also discuss what project/work will be the focus for fall 2023 and spring 2024. Report to follow.

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

## **Destination Cape Breton Association**

DCBA Finance meetings took place on June 20<sup>th</sup> August 31, September 5<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Regular monthly board meeting took place on June 21<sup>st</sup> and September 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss the ongoing recovery of the tourism industry in Cape Breton. Some of the discussions were some impacts of both forest fires and severe rain events that have had negative consequences on reported data so far this summer. As Council is aware of already, CEO Terry Smith attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the Cape Breton Tourism Levy – which was passed at the Public meeting on September 5<sup>th</sup>. At the time of this report, the municipalities that have passed second reading and adopted the 3% levy are Victoria County, CBRM, and the Town of Port Hawkesbury (and soon 2<sup>nd</sup> reading will be finalized in Inverness and Richmond).

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

## **Strait of Canso Offshore wind Task Force (SCOWTF)**

The SCOWTF executive met regularly every few weeks over the summer and into September to discuss next steps/agenda formulation for meetings of the broader membership. Some of the meetings also attended by various SCOWTF executive members were:

July 3 – Meeting for Educational resources for Offshore Wind

July 6 – Meeting w/SCOWTF executive members

July 7 – Meeting w/SCOWTF executive members and industry partner

August 2 – Meeting w/SCOWTF Executive members

August 11 – Meeting w/SCOWTF Executive members

August 17 – Meeting w/SCOWTF Executive members and Industry partner

September 14 – Meeting w/SCOWTF Executive members

Note: Several media interviews were also done throughout the summer re: policing and the mass casualty report and the mandatory education tax in Nova Scotia.

We had a full-member SCOWTF meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss completed tasks (we still are hoping to present to Inverness and Antigonish Town and County in the near future, as well as Paqknkek First Nation). We also – like every meeting, have a members roundtable, and provide news and updates with regard to Offshore Wind relevant to the Strait and the Province.

At the time of this report – our next SCOWTF meeting (in person/hybrid online) is scheduled for September 18<sup>th</sup> at 1pm in the Civic Centre/Port Hawkesbury – which was planned to be held after a Bluefloat Open House to be held the same day in the morning at the Innovation Centre – the location of their Port Hawkesbury Office – for which I will also be participating. (Report to follow for the next COW submission).

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

### **Other Meetings, and Mayor-related Activities:**

**Germany-Canada Offshore Wind Knowledge Exchange** June 24-July 1 This was an excellent opportunity to learn about the Germany experience with the development of their offshore wind industry, from inception, to regulation, to supply chain development, to marine special planning, and so much more. (a more detailed report will also be provided for council that outlines the various sessions, tours, and knowledge exchanges). Thank you so much to Council for supporting my participation to represent the Town of Port Hawkesbury and the Strait Area during this knowledge exchange in Germany (Berlin, Hamburg, Cuxhaven). It was a very intensive learning opportunity.

**Note: (Developer Meeting)** – I had the opportunity to meet with a developer in Hamburg on June 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss potential development for housing in Port Hawkesbury. This meeting held in Hamburg led to other subsequent meetings with the same developer in Port Hawkesbury with Mayor/Town staff on July 24<sup>th</sup> and with Mayor on September 11<sup>th</sup>. We are excited for these housing developments and to continue to promote the town to both local, provincial, national and international developers. We know housing is a huge need for Port Hawkesbury and certainly a huge priority of Council.

**Follow-up Meeting: Germany-Canada Offshore Wind Knowledge Exchange** – On September 13<sup>th</sup> we had a follow-up meeting with the German organizers and Canadian participants and stakeholders. There was a great presentation from NRCan regarding the federal progress/plan for offshore wind as well as great presentations from German representatives on ongoing German Offshore Wind projects.

**Green Hydrogen Sector Development Meetings:** Several meetings to discuss ongoing development for the Green Hydrogen Sector with municipal, NRR staff/Province representatives to ensure the local municipalities in the Strait region are properly preparing and progressing on various files to support this emerging sector. (Specific municipal participants are staff/elected members from Richmond/Town of Port Hawkesbury/Guysborough). Dates of meetings at the time of this report (June 21, July 6, Sept 7)

**Green Hydrogen / Offshore Wind Joint Proposal:** Several meetings were held with members of the SCOWTF – led by our EDO Martin Thompson – as well as several members of the Town of Port Hawkesbury and Richmond County staff and Mayor/Warden to prepare a joint submission for a 3-tier capacity building project to be submitted to the Province and to the Federal Government for funding. Some meetings were held as well with provincial and federal

staff to best understand how to finalize the proposal. The draft proposal information was shared with Council over the summer and will be brought back to Council once its finalized before submission for final approval.

**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 June 21<sup>st</sup> and July 19<sup>th</sup>. We use this venue to share information, and to ask questions regarding their important green hydrogen file. If council has any questions, I can take them to subsequent meetings don't hesitate to ask/contact me. Also, if any citizens have questions, happy to take those forward as well.

**Innovation Centre Discussions:** Ongoing conversations have been in the works over the summer to work on a Request for Interest (RFI) with regard to the Innovation Centre at the Port Hawkesbury Waterfront. The intent is to determine the interest in this space from the innovation and industry community around oceans and other sectors. More to come as this progresses.

**Tim Horton's Camp Day:** (July 19<sup>th</sup>) I volunteered for the morning to bring awareness and support for Tim Hortons at the main branch in Port Hawkesbury, including doing some social media promotions.

**Economic Development Discussions:** Ongoing conversations have taken place during the summer and early fall regarding new industry and business opportunities. Any meetings and/or discussions I've had with developers and entrepreneurs, I shared information/promoted the Town and region, and in some cases, I've connected potential business prospects with either our Economic Development Officer (Martin) or CEO of the Cape Breton Partnership. Its wonderful to see continued interest in industry and business start-up in both the Town and the Strait region.

**Superport Corporation:** I met various times during the summer recess/early fall with representatives of the superport board to discuss potential prospective Town of Port Hawkesbury representatives to be appointed to their board. If Council has any recommendations please let me know.

**Strait Area Pool Discussions:** Over the summer I've been working with staff to discuss a pathway forward to create a strategic plan for the pool. We met on August 29, and will set another meeting date later in the fall. The intent is to create a value proposition and create a sustainability plan that will improve support and buy-in – and what we hope will be future collaboration opportunities between the Town and Inverness and Richmond Counties.

**Campaign School Roundtable – Gender equity:** FCM organized a national conversation held virtually (Aug 29).

**Port Hawkesbury Newcomer Welcome Event:** I had the great honour to participate/speak at this event on Saturday Sept 9<sup>th</sup> – which what held at the Port Hawkesbury Community Park to serve as a meet and greet for all newcomers to the town and the Strait area. It was well attended and a success thanks to the many partners who made it possible; in addition to the Town other partners were YReach, the Cape Breton Welcome Network, Province, Destination Cape Breton, and of course wonderful performances were made by the popular and talented members of the Strait Area Filipino Society and I was thrilled to meet many newcomers from all over the world including the 9 international exchange students doing various-length terms at SAERC. Wonderful event to celebrate newcomers week in Nova Scotia.

**Workers Compensation Board Discussions/Strategic Directions:** I participated in a consultation session with other municipal leaders to review strategic directions/future goals for WCB and improving workplace safety (September 12).

**REAP Team Cape Breton / Strait:** We continue to meet virtually once a month to continue to move our must-win battles forward – one of particular interest was reported above – which is the creation of a robust innovation centre that offers innovation support and programming to help grow our innovation ecosystem in our region (report regarding the RFI for the innovation centre above).



## Gina MacDonald - Program Director's Report - September 2023

### PROJECTS

#### Completed projects

Port Hawkesbury Nursing Home staff appreciation lunch (September 6)

- Met many staff who were very grateful for the recognition!

National Newcomer Navigation Network (N4)

- Introduction to Immigration Canada national program/info and research repository for settlement of new healthcare workers
- Access to online resources expected soon

#### Current/upcoming projects

- Data collection project in progress – Mylee Peterson assigned to complete work
- Promotional video work
  - Filming underway this week in Richmond County and Port Hawkesbury
  - Further consultation next week for next steps
- Internationally Educated Nurses (IEN) Program
  - First IEN has started work at SRH
  - Settlement planning ongoing for remaining 4 nurses expected in this area
- Dal Family Medicine Resident Education Weekend (September 21-23 in Digby, NS)
- Navigator network meeting w/ NSH recruitment department re: update on recruitment initiatives
- Housing for Healthcare session in Port Hawkesbury w/ Jennifer MacIntyre (October 11)
- Presentation to Strait Richmond Healthcare Foundation (October)

### RECRUITMENT LEADS

**Dr. Pooja (India)** - Resume sent to L'Ardoise clinic, has been passed along to NSH recruitment for follow-up

#### Updates

- 2024 OHPR Community Fund program launches September 30<sup>th</sup> with guidelines to accompany application.