

Committee of the Whole Committee Report/Updates October 17th Committee of the Whole 2023

Submitted by: Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton

Submitted to Council – October 16th, 2023 (for COW Oct 17th, 2023).

Allan J MacEachen Regional Airport

The next committee meeting will be held December 6th.

The vice-chair, Melanie Samson and I were invited to meet with Minister Susan Corkum Greek (Economic Development) and Minister Kim Masland (Public Works); I worked with CAO Terry Doyle on a presentation to update both Ministers about the Allan J Regional Airport's infrastructure needs and also outline the growth and investment at the airport to date. Operator Dave Morgan kindly sent a report of the updates we could use in this presentation. At the time of the writing of this report, the meeting is scheduled for the morning of October 17 (update of this meeting to follow for the next COW report).

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

NSFM Board Position

Provincial Code of Conduct Working Group: Next meeting is November 1st – committee will review last round of consultations/surveys and will review final recommendations to the Province of Nova Scotia.

Board Meetings: We have been extremely busy with both full board meetings as well as executive board meetings on a variety of topics, regular board business, and as a measure to deal with issues/opportunities as they arise. (Sept 28, Oct 4, Oct 13, Oct 15).

Other updates/pertinent NSFM information/updates: Voting for President, Vice President (all at large), as well as regional representatives for each electoral region will be available – I encourage you all to go online and vote. The Strait/Cape Breton region have 2 candidates running for 2 positions – however, an election is still needed to determine who does the 2-year term and 1 year term (1st, 2nd place). Winners of all elections will be announced at the NSFM conference this Fall.

Prominent issues: Since the last COW report – we've continued to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding with the Province of Nova Scotia. Also, the NSFM met about Bill 329 which has a significant impact on HRM Charter which provides special powers to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to override decisions of HRM council which is a step backwards for

municipal autonomy. I was asked by the board to speak at Law Amendments on October 16th on Bill 329, which I did do, on the topics of the importance of Municipal Autonomy, and the importance of consultation and collaboration with the province, all for which Bill 329 impacted (eroding autonomy, and done without any consultation or collaboration). Many others from HRM council also spoke against Bill 329.

Additional NSFM meetings: As President – I attended meetings in Labrador via the Atlantic Mayor’s Congress in my capacity as President from September 20th to 24th. Some of the issues discussed were housing challenges, the need for modernized municipal funding sources that reflect the growing responsibilities of local government, health care, poverty, climate change and adaptation, and more. The next Atlantic Mayors Congress will be held in Summerside PEI (date to be determined).

Cape Breton South Recruiting for Health (CBSRH)

Our next meeting required a rescheduling (report to follow).

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

Cape Breton Regional Enterprise Network (LOC)

We had our bi-yearly meeting on October 11th which provided a great overview of the go-forward plan for the CBREN, as well as to provide a review of the workplan completed and needing to be completed. The 2024 workplan/strategy is not yet completed but will be presented to the LOC in early 2024 for ratification.

CEPI Senior Council

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

Next meeting is TBD (report to follow).

(Chair – Shirley MacNamara)

Port Hawkesbury Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting

Our PHAAC meeting was held Monday Sept 18th. At this meeting, the accessibility work completed during the summer was reviewed by staff for the benefit of the committee we began discussions about potential project/work we can focus on for fall 2023 and spring 2024.

We did some brainstorming, and decided with new members on the committee we would spend the next meeting reviewing the Accessibility Plan to determine what is completed and what is still needing work (of the short-, medium- and long-term goals).

Our next meeting is scheduled for October 30th (Report to follow).

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

Destination Cape Breton Association

Our next meeting is October 25th (report to follow).

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

Strait of Canso Offshore wind Task Force (SCOWTF)

The SCOWTF executive continue to meet regularly, and monthly meetings of the entire SCOWTF also continue. On September 18th we had a SCOWTF meeting at 1pm in the Civic Centre/Port Hawkesbury – which was planned to be held after Bluefloat held their Open House that same morning at the Innovation Centre – which is the location of their Port Hawkesbury Office – for which I also participated. Also, in attendance for the Bluefloat Open House was our MLA Allan MacMaster, Warden Mombourquette, and many other guests and dignitaries, including elder Dr. Albert Marshall.

We also had a SCOWTF meeting on October 10th, where we discussed the Marine Renewables Canada Conference being held in Ottawa – in December – for which I plan to attend (like the past 2 years). We have a date to present to the Town/County of Antigonish and continue to reach out to Inverness County and Paqtnekek First Nation to see if they'd like to learn more about the SCOWTF and consider joining as well.

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

Other Meetings, and Mayor-related Activities:

Nova Scotia Volunteer Awards: (September 25th) I attended the volunteer awards gala with Port Hawkesbury's award recipient Margie Pace. It was held in Halifax.

CORAH Launch: (October 3) I attended the launch of this program that is aimed to engage seniors 55yrs and older. It is a program spearheaded by NSCC; I taught a cooking class with Aiden Melnick – former NSCC culinary graduate and it was very well attended. The seniors really enjoyed the program, looking forward to helping again in the future.

Sports Wall of Fame (Contacting recipients): (October 3rd) I spent the afternoon contacting the various recipients (including youth) for the Sports Wall of Fame – in order to make the names public at our Public Council Meeting the evening of Oct 3rd.

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). Date(s) of meeting at the time of this report (October 5th, next meeting is October 18th)

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 September 20th. 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) about 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 these progress.

REAP Team Cape Breton / Strait: We continue to meet virtually once a month to continue to move our must-win battles forward – at the October meeting we discussed the potential of hosting a hackathon in partnership with the NSCC Strait Area Campus and Nautical Institute. We also discussed how we might engage MIT on future must win battles, like hosting an Innovation Summit in Cape Breton and inviting members of global reap teams here.

Cross Border Interview: (September 25th) I participated with Christopher Brown in a podcast interview about Municipal Politics and the Town of Port Hawkesbury.

Offshore Wind/Green Hydrogen Interview: (October 12th) I participated with Adam Cooke in a podcast interview about my trip to Germany, lessons learned and general questions with regard to the agenda of our Public Meeting on Oct 3rd.

Connecting the Dots Between Poverty and Health Conference: (October 17th) At the time of this report, I plan on attending this conference held at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre (report to follow).