

Committee of the Whole Committee Report/Updates

Submitted by: Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton

December 2022 – January 2023

Submitted to Council – January 17th, 2023

Team Cape Breton Strait – Post-MIT REAP

Work on the Rising tIDE fund has been ongoing in December 2022 and continues into January 2023 – which is a fund that is proposed to provide investment capital to mid-stage Innovation-based companies and to assist with talent/expertise needed to grow/mature their companies. We've identified this as gap in our earlier work and the plan going forward till be to launch a pilot to test the Rising tIDE fund concept. We plan to pitch this to the Federal and Provincial government and seek out private investors to get this pilot started. We meet regularly each second Thursday of each month to continue work on our must win battles.

(Chair/Team Champion Brenda Chisholm-Beaton)

Allan J MacEachen Regional Airport

The date of our next Allan J Airport Committee Meeting has not yet been sent. We will work out the details of the best dates to achieve quorum.

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

NSFM Executive Board Meetings

Provincial Code of Conduct working committee meetings continue. We are currently collecting feedback from NSFM members regarding structure/costing for upholding/implementing a Municipal Code of Conduct.

On the NSFM Board side, we had a meeting on January 12th. We had a presentation from PVSC and discussed NSFM matters. On January 9th, the NSFM board had the opportunity to meet with Premier Houston, Minister Lohr, and also, I chaired an information session on the proposed NSFM structural changes on January 11th.

Also of note: a special public meeting for all NSFM members will be held January 26 to determine next steps on the proposed structural changes. Thanks to Deputy Mayor Hughie MacDougall and Councillor Aucoin for letting me know they will be attending. I want to encourage all of council to come and have a say.

(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 as needed. CBSRH Terms of Reference updating is part of the work currently under consideration for the wider group. We didn't meet at our typical time in December due to the busy holidays but have a date set for our next executive meeting for: January 19th and our next full-member meeting is January 26th 2023.

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

Accessibility Advisory Meeting

We've paused our meetings to allow for the local Port Hawkesbury Committee recruitment process to be completed. With the new members and returning members due to be ratified at the Jan 17th Public meeting of Council, this will position our next tentative meeting to take place for Monday, February 6th 2023. Report to follow.

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

Unity Drive: Joint Industrial Park Commission

No formal meetings were held in December and 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

DCBA meeting was held on Dec 9, 2022. The next DCBA meeting is yet to be set. As the new vice-chair of DCBA, I now chair the industry committee, and our next meeting is set for February 10th, 2023. Report to follow for both meetings.

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

Pitu'paq

We will continue to work on a survey to distribute to municipal and First Nation elected officials as well as other T&R stakeholders for some time in the new year - to find out what interest there may be for participation. Next meeting date is not yet set (Chair: Shirley MacNamara)

Strait of Canso Offshore Wind Task Force

On January 6th, the members of the executive committee met at the Innovation Centre and discussed some strategic directions we'd need to make as a task force with the intent that we'd bring the draft to the broader group for feedback, additions, and suggestions.

The full-member task force meeting was held January 10th virtually – and we continue to learn more about offshore wind and connect with key stakeholders. Future stakeholder meetings/presentations yet to be determined are with Victoria County Council and Paqtnkek. We reviewed the TOR for our group, and tentatively approved it via consensus with a few small changes needed to be made. We also reviewed our tentative strategic plan with the members to get feedback, changes, additions. We plan to continue to revisit the strategy chart so we can ensure we are going in the right direction.

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

Other work:

Advocacy Days (FCM): I spent four days in Ottawa as the President of NSFAM (Dec 6-9th 2022) and we were able to hear from all national parties and some senators. I had the opportunity to meet with Mike Kelloway to discuss the Town's needs.

OSW Task force Exec. Meeting – Net Zero Atlantic: On Dec 9th some of the Offshore Wind task force executive met with Net Zero Atlantic - Curtis Martin – to discuss the opportunity for working together.

Port Hawkesbury Paper Meeting: I had the opportunity to meet with Port Hawkesbury Paper owner/management – on December 14th 2022 - others invited from our region were from Richmond and Guysborough counties. We had a great update regarding the current challenges and opportunities as well as what to expect in the new year.

Community Consultation Session for Housing in Port Hawkesbury: I participated in a New Dawn-led workshop on housing (Dec 14th, 2022) which explored how the Town of Port Hawkesbury can be proactive with improving housing in the town. It was an excellent session, with great engagement from community members. Incredibly excited for the New Dawn presentation to council on February 22nd.

Mayor's Skate: This was held on Dec 21, 2022 and it was very well attended. Thanks to the town staff who assisted with promoting and implementing this fun family activity. The kids really enjoyed the hot chocolate, cookies, and fun at the rink.

Meeting with Province: Brief meeting on Jan 11th, prior to the Bear Head open house with senior staff to discuss progress on the offshore wind file with Warden Mombourquette and I (as Mayor and Warden).

Bear Head Energy Open House: This open house took place on Jan 11th and provided sign-in and poster board-style presentation on the Bear Head project. It was a great opportunity to learn more about the project and ask questions.

ICIP Funding Announcement: I was grateful to have the opportunity to participate with MP Kelloway and MLA and Deputy Premier MacMaster in this 3.3 million Dollar Water System Upgrade Project on Jan 16th, 2023 (thanks to Councillors Aucoin and MacIver, and Deputy Mayor MacDougall for joining, as well as staff including many from our Public Works department. The funding breakdown is Federal at \$1.3 Million, Province at \$1.2 Million and Port Hawkesbury at \$880K. This will go a long way to improve our water system, improve safety, and the security and reliability of the existing water treatment and distribution infrastructure.

Media Coverage – January 16/17th 2023 - I provided information to The Reporter, and CBC News regarding the Water System Upgrades Announcement.

Anti-Racism For Council Course: I completed day one of a two-day course on January 17th and the final day will be on January 19th, 2023. Happy to include some key points in my next report for the benefit of council upon completing the course.