

PORT COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP MEETING NOTES

Date: April 13, 2021

Location: The North Grove, Dartmouth

Time: 5:00pm to 7:00pm

Chairperson: Sara Colburne

Coordinators: Rebecca Bruce & Maggie Kennedy, Halifax Port Authority (HPA)

Committee Members in Attendance:

- Sarah Craig
- Wendy Fraser
- Pamela Glode-Desrochers
- Magali Grégoire
- Jeff Hutt
- Cathy McCarthy
- Ossama Nasrallah

Guest Presenters:

- Mike Davie, Vice-President, Operations & Planning, HPA
- Chris MacDonald, Environmental Manager, HPA

HPA Representative:

Captain Allan Gray, President & CEO, HPA

Apologies :

- Dov Bercovici
- Waye Mason
- Juanita Peters
- Kunjal Sethi

1. INTRODUCTIONS

North Grove Introduction, Wendy Fraser

- The North Grove is a Family and Community Food Centre that offer programs, services, and space for people to learn and connect through family support, food, and friendship. The North Grove first started as a community centre, then it became apparent there was a hunger problem and a lack of food security in the community of North Dartmouth. Within the community, there are many single parents, immigrants, and seniors, many living below the poverty line.
- The North Grove is a unique as members can pick-up affordable (and free) food, participate in community meals program, learn how to cook healthy meals, and learn about growing food in their large outdoor garden.
- Through the pandemic, the North Grove has served over 18,000 meals and provided pick-up options for basic food. It is community staffed and volunteer run.

2. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Next in-person meeting location will be at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, pending covid-19 restrictions.

- Updates from members and good news stories:
 - Friends of McNabs Island: upcoming AGM. There will be a discussion about the shoreline. McNabs Island is seeing high demand for guided tours.
 - Harbour Watercraft Tours & Adventures: Expecting a busy season, beginning a kayaking expedition.
 - North Grove: Groups will begin to come in to work at the community gardens, including company is sending in teams to work on the farm for the day.

3. PORT REPORT

Captain Allan Gray

- Since mid-January, HPA had 4 incidents/near misses resulting in minor property damage. These were from snow clearing operations, contact with overhead doors, boardwalk, and fencing. In addition, there have been no Covid-19 cases to date, HPA remains diligent, taking precautionary measures. There are no environmental incidents to report.
- HPA released strong Q1 cargo numbers, one of the highest the port has seen in years, because of Asia rebound, starting to flow through in the market.
- Founding Partners of the PIER (Port Innovation Engagement Research) have been announced, which include CN, PSA Halifax, OMC International, and Saab Technologies Ltd. The PIER staff are virtually meeting with the founding partners to actively define what success will look like. Several ports have shown interest in joining the ecosystem within the PIER. Construction of the physical space has begun.
- Farmers' Market transition continues to go smoothly. Vendors sold out first weekend, Vendors and customers are enjoying the new location.
- In early April, there was a joint statement by the Africville Heritage Trust, the Halifax Port Authority, and the Halifax Regional Municipality regarding land exchange. The lands being discussed include the Halifax Port Authority's new landmass (which includes existing and future infill lands), the expanded Africville Heritage Trust lands and the municipal land intended to be transferred to the Halifax Port Authority. The municipality's African Nova Scotian Affairs Integration Office will play an integral role in supporting discussions that keep historic Africville, the Africville Museum, and Africville Park at the forefront of consideration. Halifax Regional Council has asked staff to return with a recommendation report regarding next steps. The report is anticipated to be presented in the latter half of 2021.
Q&A: Could you explain what the infill is? Is it safe?
- The infill is pyritic slate. Pyritic slate can be acidic when exposed to oxygen. When oxygen is removed, by placing the material underwater, an anaerobic environment it is no longer acid-generating.

4. NEW BUSINESS

Maugers Beach Lighthouse, Cathy McCarthy

- Cathy McCarthy gave an update on behalf of the Friends of McNabs Island Society and presented on the Maugers Beach Lighthouse, bringing awareness of the plans to divest the lighthouse to the PCLC and the Port Authority.
- Cathy shared an aerial video which shows the lighthouse: <https://youtu.be/0KGbkrv5z4I>
- The current lighthouse at Maugers Beach Lighthouse was built during WWII next to the former Sherbrooke Tower. The current lighthouse is surplus to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) needs and they plan to divest this lighthouse as they have done for another lighthouse in

Canada. Many of these lighthouses have been taken over by community groups. DFO still uses the Lighthouse on McNabs Island as an "aid to navigation" but has no plans to restore the building. There are two other "range" lights (aids to navigation) on McNabs already.

- The lighthouse holds considerable historical value, and the Society is seeking ways to preserve it for the future.

Action item: A question was asked regarding the maintenance of the breakwater adjacent to the lighthouse. HPA will inquire and confirm who is responsible.

5. PRESENTATION & WORKSHOP

Sustainability at the Port of Halifax, Presented by Michael Davie, VP Planning & Operations, HPA.

- Michael Davie delivered an introduction on how HPA views sustainability and the importance of creating a Sustainability Strategy.
- Discussion on the definition of sustainability. HPA defines sustainability as the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability for future generations to meet their needs. Sustainability is composed of three pillars: society, environment, and economy—also known informally as people, planet, and profit.
- Key priority underway to is to develop methodology, approach, and strategy for effectively engaging the port community in the development of a sustainability framework that will be used to guide organizational-based planning and operations.
- HPA has an organizational commitment to be a community-based port that is integrated and thriving with our community. HPA has an opportunity to work with our community to develop mutually beneficial goals and strategies so we can grow together. To do this, HPA will build a sustainability strategy that is grounded in community input and aligned with 4-6 key United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). This strategy will help to guide our overall corporate direction, priorities, and goals as a community-based port. To gather the community input, HPA is launching a public survey in early May to gain input from the community.

Workshop: group exercise on mapping out sustainability priorities and discussing ideas to promote sustainability survey.

Conclusion: The meeting concluded at 7:00 pm.

Next meeting: May 20, 2021