

Port Community Liaison Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday, January 20, 2022

Time: 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting

Chair: Sara Colburne

Coordinators: Lane Farguson & Carrie Blenkhorn, Halifax Port Authority (HPA)

Attendees: Members :

1. Sarah Craig
2. Pamela Glode-Desrochers
3. Cathy McCarthy
4. Denyse Contrasty
5. Waye Mason
6. Ossama Nasrallah
7. Wendy Fraser
8. Hisham Hamdan
9. Dov Bercovici
10. Magali Grégoire
11. Wendy Fraser

HPA: Captain Allan Gray, President and CEO

Regrets: Juanita Peters

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Committee Check-In:

Round table updates or good news stories from members

2. PORT REPORT

Captain Allan Gray, President and CEO

- Safety and Environment Report: since the last meeting HPA has had four safety incidents/ near misses. No environmental incidents reported.
- Year End Cargo: Containerized cargo volume through the Port of Halifax was up overall in 2021. Container volume in 2021 reached 595,751 TEU. This is an increase of 17% over 2020, and 6.5% over 2017, the previous highest volume year. Imports are up but exports have not grown.
- Cruise Update: First cruise ship is due in late April. HPA continues to plan and will continue to take direction from the Public Health Agency of Canada and Transport Canada on public safety measures. HPA will work with local health authorities to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all involved. Direction from PHAC expected in the coming weeks. No changes yet to the 2022 season but Omicron may be a factor.
- Real Estate Update: Two new tenants have been confirmed for “The PIER” retail spaces. Café Chianti will take over the northern section. Northern Watters Knitwear will take two boardwalk spaces. Latte-Da Coffee, Tea, Bistro and Gifts opened in November. Work underway to move the Halifax Seaport Farmers’ Market into a portion of the Cunard space. RCR has signed a lease on the commercial kitchen and office space in the Cunard space
- Pier A-1 – As part of our master planning process, we have identified a portion of Ocean Terminals to be infilled to create additional yard space for safe and efficient operations now

and in the future. This is the space between Pier A-1 and Pier B. We anticipate using material excavated from downtown Halifax construction sites, most of which contains pyritic slate. A Fisheries Act Authorization was granted in 2018 by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and habitat offsetting will be implemented. All environmental requirements will be followed. We will start receiving slate sometime in April at this Ocean Terminals. Fairview Cove infilling will continue, estimated infilling will be completed there in approximately 12 months.

- CN Rail Moncton Ramp – Moncton ramp is now live. The yard has been expanded and additional shipping lines are now using it. New Brunswick and PEI truckers can drop off export containers and pick up import containers instead of trucking them to and from Halifax. Containers coming in by rail instead of by truck reduces truck traffic coming through downtown.

Questions & Feedback

- Members noted they are happy to see the new café at the PIER building look forward to the other tenants opening.
- Cpt. Gray shared how HPA is looking at how we can utilize the brow in the Seaport area as well, and currently in discussions with Transport Canada.
- Infilling – Curious if any conversations took place with the Mi'kmaw communities?
 - Assessment was done back in 2018, Fisheries granted the approval at that time, but we hadn't acted on the infill area until now. Consultation did take place with the Mi'kmaw community when project was being planned.
- What impact has the Port seen in the supply chain, does it affect what you do?
 - We are seeing increase in volumes but there are times when ships bypass Halifax to get back on schedule, and there are times when Halifax receives an unscheduled vessel call because of congestion issues in other ports. This has an impact on the ability to plan, which affects the local labour force. It could take another year before we see any normality start to come back to the supply chain.
- What is the habitat offsetting that was mentioned?
 - Whenever we go any infilling, we work with DFO to discover various habitat offsets that we can do to counter the area of water we are taking. An example of this would be placing reef balls in the harbour through the Clean NS foundation. More information on the habitat offset and the reef ball project will be shared with the PCLC. The Halifax Port Authority will work with Clean Foundation Nova Scotia to have 260 reef balls installed as a method of environmental remediation.
- Insight into how NS can export better?
 - NS continually looking for new opportunities. 55% import, 45% export so we are reasonably balanced when compared to other Canadian ports.

3. PRESENTATION

Cogswell Project and impact on Port Operations

Guest Speaker, Donna Davis, Project Manager for the Cogswell District project

Donna Davis provided an overview of the Cogswell District project. This will be the biggest city-building project in the history of Halifax. The project was awarded to Dexter Construction in 2021. The project will be undertaken in three phases with completion expected in 2026. Status update provided for Phase 1. Two detour roads will continue to allow sufficient traffic flow and will be constructed by early summer 2022. The project includes Stakeholder Engagement and meaningful Diversity & Inclusion initiatives are included throughout the lifecycle of the project with focus on African Nova Scotians and the Mi'kmaw community. A construction update mobile

app, similar to what Halifax Harbour Briges used for the Big Lift project, will be launched in 2022 to communicate updates to the public.

The information was well-received. Members had questions about consultation work being done with neighbouring organizations and businesses, expected impacts of the current labour shortage, archeology and artifacts, and traffic mitigation measures.

4. **OPEN SPACE/CLOSING**

- Meeting schedule for 2022:
Option given to the committee to change the current meeting time. Members present agreed that the third Thursday of every second month starting at 5 p.m. will continue to work for meetings. HPA will send out 2022 meeting invites.
- Opportunity given to committee members to offer suggestions for new discussion topics they would like to see for future meetings. Members encouraged to email any suggestions to Chair or HPA.
 - Overall plan/vision that HPA is working on for future
 - Follow up on exporting discussion.
 - Careers in the Port industry, i.e., letting people what jobs and opportunities exist. Are there any challenges the Port sees for the future labour market?
 - Rail project updates - Understanding the impacts of increased rail activity on nearby communities and communicating that information with them, including timelines. i.e., Mayors of Amherst and Truro approach Councillor Mason about increased rail activity through their communities. How will the railway cut effect South End Halifax residents?
 - Coastal erosion, sea level rise impacts and planning.
 - Information regarding Halifax Waterfront development versus Dartmouth waterfront
- Allan asked for feedback and suggestions from the committee regarding safety issue that is occurring with pedestrians along Marginal Road. Any suggestions for how to handle this and keep people safe?
 - Signage options similar to the cyclist safety signs that are currently in place. Focus on pedestrian safety and education, the fact there are hazards associated with industrial areas but do so without making people feel that need to stop accessing the area.
 - Floppy barriers like what is used in the bike lanes (green and white)
 - Could look at pavement stickers versus signage and include some friendly messages in there as well

CONCLUSION: Meeting ended at 6:50 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: March 31, 2022