
**2022-23 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
@ WESTIN NOVA SCOTIAN**

**JUNE 29, 2023
9:00 – 10:30 A.M.**

MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cory Bell, Chair	President & CEO, Lindsay Construction
Carrie Cussons	President & CEO, Events East Group
Cathy Deagle Gammon	Councillor, Halifax Regional Municipality
Patrick Fitzgerald	Partner, Cox & Palmer
Andrea Forbes-Hurley	Managing Partner, KBRS
Mike Johnston	President & CEO, REDspace
David Landrigan	General Counsel & Vice President, Business Development, Emera
Waye Mason	Councillor, Halifax Regional Municipality
Captain Andy MacKenzie	Base Commander, Maritime Forces Atlantic
Winston Morton	Chief Executive Officer, Climative
Cathie O'Toole	CAO, Halifax Regional Municipality
Vinita Savani	Regional President Atlantic Provinces, RBC
Anita Swamy	Vice President, Operations, Medavie Blue Cross
Mike Savage	Mayor, Halifax Regional Municipality

Regrets:

Donna Alteen, Vice Chair	CEO, Time + Space Media, Ltd.
Sarah Buckle	Partner, Sustainability & Climate, Deloitte
Scott Farmer	Deputy Minister, NS Department of Economic Development
Louis Lawen	CEO, Lawen Group
Chuck Maillet	Vice President, Nova Scotia, ACOA

Staff:

Wendy Luther	President & CEO
Tanya Walters	Corporate Liaison

WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER & ORDER OF BUSINESS:

W. Luther called the meeting to order at **9:00 a.m.**

- W. Luther welcomed guests and opened the 2022-23 Annual General Meeting of the Halifax Partnership as we reflect on the past year and look forward to the year ahead. Many of our guests were acknowledged including VIPs, Board of Directors, Investors, partners, and Halifax Partnership staff. W. Luther welcomed Minister Corkum-Greek to the stage to offer opening remarks.

Opening Remarks – Minister Corkum-Greek and Mayor Mike Savage

- Minister Corkum-Greek took to the stage to provide opening remarks.
- Minister Corkum-Greek extended a warm thank you to everyone in attendance. She spoke about Halifax and the fact that we are having a moment and the need to ensure we seize it and make it last. This is the start of a bold new

era. We are building momentum with population growth, and it is recognized that with growth comes challenges, along with rising inflation and now the new federal carbon tax. Thanks were extended to the Halifax Partnership community for its work and contributions towards a successful Halifax and a stronger Nova Scotia. Let's continue to work together and enjoy the moment.

- W. Luther thanked the Minister for her words and for joining us today. A special welcome was also extended to Deputy Minister, Scott Farmer, who is with us today and a Board member.
- W. Luther welcomed Mayor Mike Savage to the stage. The Mayor acknowledged that we are in the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. A warm thanks was extended to Wendy Luther, Cathie O'Toole, CAO, as well as acknowledging some new faces with us today. Halifax is having a moment so "Don't stop me now". This is Our New Era! Our population is growing – that's a good thing – but we also recognize this creates challenges.
- Mayor Savage spoke about the excitement in our city from People. Planet. Prosperity. to the success the Convention Centre is having under Carrie Cusson's leadership and the CEO Climate Action Charter. The Charter was formed from Don Bureaux's idea and it's important as our climate is changing. More people have to be part of the success of the city, however, respecting our city and protecting our environment is crucial as we continue to grow and be a model for other cities.
- W. Luther thanked Mayor Savage for his kind words and leadership role at HRM. Thanks, were also extended to all members of the Regional Council including a warm welcome to Cathie O'Toole for her leadership at HRM and her role on the Board of Directors.
- W. Luther welcomed Cory Bell onto the stage. Before proceeding with the Order of Business, C. Bell provided remarks.

The formal meeting was called to order at 9:23 a.m.

- C. Bell took to the stage and provided remarks on the success of the city including GDP and population growth. Our city is having a moment and there are many successes happening including events taking place around the city.
- Halifax Partnership has accomplished a number of milestones, including:
 1. The inaugural year for the Emerging Leaders & Innovators Advisory Board.
 2. Created its first 5-Year Strategic plan aligned with People. Planet. Prosperity. Halifax's inclusive economic strategy.
 3. The recent retirement of long-standing employee, Ruth Cunningham, who will be missed by many.
- While there is much to celebrate, we also recognize the challenges of growth, including increased population and increased pressure on our infrastructure.
- We have a business community that is engaged. It's time to be part of this growth.
- C. Bell extended a warm thanks to our Board members and also extended thanks to Wendy Luther and the Halifax Partnership team.

Regular Order of Business

- The Chair noted e-mail notices were sent to Halifax Partnership's Investors and community stakeholders.
- Information packages were provided electronically and on our website. The package included the following:
 1. Agenda
 2. 2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes
 3. Draft Audited Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2023
 4. 2023-24 Slate of Directors for approval

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND THE 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

A. Swamy moved, C. Deagle-Gammon seconded approval of June 29, 2023, Annual General Meeting agenda and the June 30, 2022 meeting minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

2. AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Carrie Cussons, Chair, Audit and Risk Committee provided the Committee report, including:

- As stated in the financials, Halifax Partnership received a clean audit report. There were no significant negative findings by the Auditors, and in the opinion of our Auditors, our financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Association.

- The Association is reporting a bottom-line surplus of revenue over expenditures for the year of \$258,059 resulting in a very strong balance sheet, with cumulative equity (reserve) balances available to help mitigate risk related to unforeseen events or changes in the economic environment as required by the Association's Reserve policy.
- C. Cussons extended a special thanks to her fellow Committee members for their ongoing commitment: Winston Morton, Vinita Savani, Mike Johnston and Louie Velocci with KPMG. Thanks to each of you for your ongoing contributions and guidance on the Audit and Risk Committee.
- Thanks were extended to all of Halifax Partnership's Investors, HRM, the Province of Nova Scotia and ACOA for their commitment to this organization and for having a hand in growing a prosperous Halifax during the pandemic.

A. Forbes-Hurley moved, M. Johnston seconded approval of Halifax Partnership's Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2023. **MOTION CARRIED.**

- C. Bell proceeded with the appointment of the Auditors for Halifax Partnership and asked for a motion to approve the re-appointment of EY Chartered Accountants as the Partnership's auditor until the close of the next annual meeting.
- EY is a founding Investor in Halifax Partnership.
- In attendance today from EY: Pamela Achenbach, Partner and Tim Mitchell, Senior Manager.

C. Cussons moved, M. Johnston seconded the motion to re-appoint Ernst & Young Chartered Accountants as the Partnership's Auditors until the close of the next annual meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

3. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

- P. Fitzgerald, Committee Chair, presented the Corporate Governance Committee Report.
- For 2023-24, there are two confirmed vacancies on the Board of Directors, resulting from the following departures:
 - **Winston Morton** – completed his third and final term on the Board.
 - **Louis Lawen** – completed his 1st term on the Board; did not reoffer another term.
- On April 12 a call for nominations was issued with a closing date of April 26. The Committee met on May 8 to review the submissions and put forward the following slate of candidates for the 2023-24 fiscal year:
 - **Cory Bell** – President & CEO, Lindsay Construction
 - **Donna Alteen** – CEO, Time & Space Media Ltd.
 - **Sarah Buckle** – Partner, Sustainability & Climate, Deloitte
 - **Carrie Cussons** - President & CEO, Events East Group
 - **Patrick Fitzgerald** – Partner, Cox & Palmer
 - **Andrea Forbes-Hurley** – Managing Partner, KBRS
 - **Mike Johnston** – Founder & CEO, REDspace
 - **David Landrigan** – General Counsel & Vice President, Business Development, Emera
 - **Vinita Savani** - RBC Regional President, Atlantic Canada, RBC
 - **Anita Swamy** – Senior Vice President, Operations, Medavie Blue Cross

Representing Halifax Regional Council:

- **Waye Mason** – Councillor, Halifax Regional Municipality
- **Cathy Deagle Gammon** – Councillor, Halifax Regional Municipality

New Members:

- **Dr. Alice Aiken** – Vice President, Research & Innovation, Dalhousie University
- **Nicola Ray Smith** – Senior Vice President, Atlantic Region, Scotiabank

The following members be re-appointed as ex officio to the Board of Directors:

- **Mike Savage** - Mayor, Halifax Regional Municipality
- **Cathie O'Toole** - Chief Administrative Officer, Halifax Regional Municipality
- **Chuck Maillet** - Vice President, Nova Scotia, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

- **Captain Andy MacKenzie** – Base Commander, Maritime Forces Atlantic
- **Scott Farmer** – Deputy Minister, NS Department of Economic Development

Appointment of Officers:

The Corporate Governance Committee recommends the extension of terms for the following Officers to the Board of Directors:

- **Cory Bell** – Chair
- **Donna Alteen** – Vice Chair

C. Bell recommended members accept the recommendations of these appointments. As per the Bylaws, all appointments are effective until the next annual meeting or until their respective successors are elected or appointed.

W. Morton moved, W. Mason seconded the recommendations of the Corporate Governance Committee to accept all appointments effective until the next annual general meeting or until their respective successors are elected or appointed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

- The following slate of members, including 10 returning members, 1 departing member, and one new member, for the Emerging Leaders and Innovators Advisory Board for the 2023-24 fiscal year was presented as follows:
 - **Rilla Banks** - Lawyer, Municipal Group of Companies
 - **Peter Gale** - Chief Commercial Officer, ReelData, A.I.
 - **Alyssa Hill** - Senior Manager, KPMG
 - **Tianshu Huang** - Director, Data Science, SimpTek
 - **Sharon Ishimwe** - Executive Director, MacPhee Centre for Creative Learning
 - **Jeff Kielbratowski** - Co-founder, Harbr
 - **Mitchell MacLellan** - Wealth Management Consultant, Owens MacFadyen Group
 - **Nicole MacNeil** - Manager, Talent Management, Irving Shipbuilding, Inc.
 - **Katie Newcombe** - Manager, Organizational Development, Davis Pier Consulting
 - **Elizabeth Smith** - Alexander Keith's Brewery Sales Manager, Labatt Breweries of Canada

New member:

- **Stephanie Langille** – Commercial Account Manager, Royal Bank of Canada

Special thanks were extended to Mrugakshee Palwe, CEO and Co-founder, Atlantic Blockchain Company for her contributions over the last year and special recognition of Katie Newcome in her new role as Chair of the Advisory Board for the next two years.

C. Bell asked Board Members to stand as he thanked them for their hard work, dedication, and unwavering commitment. Their work is making a difference for our organization and our city. He also extended a special thank you to Winston Morton for his long-standing commitment to this organization. He provided great leadership and a lot of his time on committee work and other organizational initiatives. Louis Lawen was thanked for his contributions over his two years. He also extended a thank you to the Advisory Board for their contributions.

The regular order of business closed at **9:45 a.m.**

4. REMARKS – WENDY LUTHER

W. Luther thanked Cory Bell for his work and commitment to the Board as Board Chair and proceeded to provide a 2022-23 Report on Halifax Partnership's activities. Wendy extended a warm welcome to our newest board members – Dr. Alice Aiken and Nicola Ray Smith.

- We are connectors and in the past year we supported over 100 private sector and post-secondary Investors, connecting them to growth opportunities for themselves, and for Halifax.
- Our SmartBusiness team supported over 300 businesses impacted by the wildfires.

- Halifax Partnership is the go-to source for economic insights about our city, and we now have a new tool to share these insights – the Halifax Atlas – that will go live next week.
- We are honoured to support the ANS Road to Economic Prosperity Action Plan and last year, we supported the ANS community in implementing Year two of this groundbreaking and nation-leading work.
- We launched our first Belonging strategy and April 2023 marked one year since the launch of People. Planet. Prosperity. Halifax's Inclusive Economic Strategy 2022-2027. We thank HRM for their collaboration in the creation and implementation of this Plan.
- Another point of pride is standing up the CEO Climate Action Charter, under Action 53 in the Economic Strategy, inspired by Don Bureaux, NSCC.

In conclusion, Wendy Luther took the opportunity to acknowledge Ruth Cunningham, who retired earlier in June. Ruth was integral to our work over the last 27 years and was involved in standing up Halifax Partnership in 1996. She will be sorely missed, and we wish her all the best in her next phase of life.

Now moving on to the next item on the agenda – the Planet Showcase.

5. PLANET SHOWCASE (HalifACT, Green Economy)

Today's meeting provided an opportunity for the Planet Showcase (HalifACT, Green Economy) with guest speakers:

1. Don Bureaux, NSCC: CEO Climate Action Charter
2. Will Burt, Planetary Technologies: Choosing Halifax
3. Liam Cook, Navigate Energy: Climate Challenge winner

Don Bureaux spoke to the work at NSCC on the NS Health and Safety Charter which was his inspiration for suggesting the creation of the CEO Climate Action Charter. Congratulations to Halifax Partnership for taking the lead on this important initiative. Don encouraged everyone in attendance today to consider being a part of the Charter.

Will Burt spoke about the work being carried out at Planetary Technologies, including adapting to and mitigating the impacts of the climate crisis. Planetary is a leader in this space and its goal is to make a difference on a global level by reducing emissions and removing Co2 from the atmosphere. They want every stakeholder to be aware of their plans and to encourage stakeholders to reach out and speak with them directly on how they can get involved.

Liam Cook spoke about Navigate Energy's focus on decarbonization and adopting clean energy practices. He indicated Canada is one of the biggest polluters and we need to improve. Their goal is to be clean energy providers and assist businesses in reducing carbon emissions. He asked the audience to think about the resources we consume - what we use day-to-day that we are stealing from future generations and how we can reduce our consumption of these resources.

6. CLOSING

W. Luther provided closing remarks and extended thanks to everyone for attending. She asked attendees to get more involved with our work at Halifax Partnership, use our economic and data tools, and attend and participate in our events and activities throughout the year. Lastly, if you are not a Connector, please get involved with the Connector Program and speak with Nathan Laird before leaving today.

The meeting was adjourned at **10:30 a.m.**

Tanya Walters

T. Walters, Corporate Secretary

June 20, 2024

Date