

Meeting Date: July 15th, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Prepared by: Amy Harding, Secretary

Please submit proposed corrections or omissions to amy@hardingworks.org no later than 14 days after Minutes publication date.

In Attendance

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Anna LeBlanc, President
Bonnie Rankin, Vice-President
Amy Harding, Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Anne Chaldecott
Nancy MacDonald

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Art Dewtie
Bill Fraser
Jennifer Langille
Paula Law
Andrew LeBlanc
Myrna LeBlanc
MaryAnne MacDonald
Darryl Rankin
Sheila Rankin
Brenda Spence-MacLeod

COMMUNITY ATTENDEES

Casey O'Shea
Petra Rankin

Call to Order, Approvals

President Anna LeBlanc calls meeting to order

- Call for motion to approve minutes from June meeting
- Corrections to minutes noted:
 - Sheila notes: Darryl & Sheila not present in June
 - Anna notes use of "Anna" rather than "Anne" (Chaldecott) in June Agenda Item "Ferry Schedule," Motion 1
- Motion for June meeting minutes to be approved with inclusion of above changes:
Motion: Nancy MacDonald **Seconded:** Art Dewtie
Vote: all in favor, motion carried

Agenda Item: Community Potluck (July 1st)

- Received \$304 in donations.
- Motion to donate funds received to Pictou Food Bank
Motion: Anne Chaldecott **Seconded:** Anna LeBlanc
Vote: No dissent, motion carried

Agenda Item: Donation to Church

- Brenda shares that the Heritage Society would like to make a donation to the Church Committee for maintenance of the church in the amount of \$1,000.
- Myrna & Anna will follow up with Brenda on behalf of the Church Committee.

Agenda Item: Summer Job Updates

PARL Tech Position

- Casey is working on updating the island phone list. Those in attendance are asked to share this information and requests that anyone with updates reach out to Casey. Amy will send a message to the Pictou Island email list requesting updates.
- He is also working on a QR code that will, when scanned, take people to a general document with island info (on ferry schedule, PICA info, etc.)
- He is developing a series of Google Documents specific to PICA committees which will allow committee members to assign and track tasks.
- Internet Update: Casey reports that technicians from TNC (contact: Ian Moss), the company that is in process of setting up new internet hardware at the Community Centre. They tested our current speed and affirmed they could provide better. They had the wrong brackets, and so were unable to complete installation. Anna will follow up with Ian to check status and their planned date of return.

Groundskeeping Job

- Amy reports that as of July 14th, funding decisions have not yet been made by Canada Summer Jobs. Our program officer has reaffirmed she will notify us as soon as the decision letter is received from the federal office.
- Anne reports that Hannah Fleury has been hired by PICA to do mowing/groundskeeping at 10hrs/week, but notes that there is some flexibility there – some weeks it will be more, some less, depending upon work to be done and Hannah’s schedule.

Agenda Item: Harbour Authority Update

- Jenn reports that they have put together a list of those they identified whom they felt should be on the Harbour Authority contact list (names and phone numbers). Notes it would be good to have their emails.
 - Anyone who has a boat/uses the wharf should be on this list. It will be used to communicate issues impacting wharf usage (e.g. roadwork, the East Wharf being out of commission).
- Anne notes that we must have a Harbour Authority or we will not get service. While it is not an immediate concern, it is important to be aware of.
- Signage: Jenn asks about the status of a sign for the ferry landing location, as discussed in June. Motion that PICA pay for the production of a sign to be placed on the ferry ramp stating ‘Reserved for Ferry’

Motion: Nancy MacDonald **Seconded:** Brenda Spence-MacLeod

Vote: all in favor, motion carried

Design Discussion:

- MaryAnne MacDonald will work on production
- Anne Chaldecott agrees to review and approve design
- Details: it is agreed that the sign should be generated in landscape format, twice the size of ‘the dog signs’, and that the text should appear in all caps.

Agenda Item: Ferry (Fall Schedule)

- Committee Add: Paula reports that AJ Law would like to join the Ferry Committee.
- Fall Schedule:
- Per decision reached at June meeting, discussion regarding potential requests for schedule changes to ferry schedule September-November.
- Bill reminds all that the ferry will be leaving from Caribou during these months.
- Paula Law observes that she would like the day to be made longer (e.g. more time on mainland), but the lack of light makes that a challenge.
 - Jenn: notes agreement with this observation for October and November, but suggests we could request extension for September.
- Motion that PICA request that PI Charters extend the September evening boat from 6pm to 7pm.
Motion: MaryAnne MacDonald **Seconded**: Nancy MacDonald
Vote: all in favor, motion carried
 - Bill will communicate this request to PI Charters.
- Service Communication
- Jenn observes a lack of communication regarding services, particularly Junk Run & Fuel Runs
 - Amy notes the lack of communication regarding the Junk Run is her oversight – this messaging usually comes from PI email. She will email rules/schedule in advance of next Junk Run.
 - Ask to PI Charters, regarding fuel runs: could they please specify location (e.g. which wharf) and timeframe for gas barrel & propane tank dropoff. Bill has captured this and will include it in his communication to PI Charters regarding September schedule request.
- Nancy notes that Cameron MacDonald will come down to the Caribou wharf at any time to pick up, refill, and return.
- Fuel Orders, Carbon Tax
- Jenn notes her most recent bill included carbon tax. Upon calling, she was informed by McGilvary that each individual must open their own account to be considered exempt. Jenn will contact Helen to confirm that this is in fact that case, and will let Linda know so that this can be communicated to the island email list.

Agenda Item: Auction

- Anna references discussion after last year's auction regarding splitting the event into two: a food auction (live) and a craft auction (online). The Church Committee is interested in running the online component.
 - Anne avers that more money will be raised if we do this.
 - To Anne's point, Nancy & Sheila note that crafts were not valued as they might have been at the auction last year, because they appeared at the end of a long event and people were tired. Having an online craft auction would also allow those not present on date of physical auction to participate.
- Motion that a separate craft/voucher auction be held online, with proceeds going to the Church.
Motion: Anne Chaldecott **Seconded**: Nancy MacDonald
Vote: all in favor, motion carried
 - Discussion, Logistics

- If any crafts are donated to the food auction, they will be put aside and moved to the online auction (Nancy)
- Anne notes there should be an email about this.
- Craft auction will open after date of food auction, and close before AGM (AGM being a good opportunity for people to collect their items won).

Agenda Item: Annual General Meeting & BBQ

- The AGM will be held at 4pm on August 26th, immediately followed by a by-donation BBQ.
- Supplies for BBQ will be procured as follows:
 - Amy: Corn (Sterlings); Sausages (Pork Shop, New Glasgow)
 - Myrna & Anna: Buns, Butter, Salt & Pepper, Napkins, Plates, Condiments
 - Islanders: BBQs, pots
 - *Amy will consult with Gretchen & Susan Forsyth to establish estimated quantities, and report to Anna & Myrna*
- Drinks will be BYO; MaryAnne also suggests we encourage people to bring sun umbrellas, garbage cans, and sand buckets.
- Brenda offers that PICA can use the Heritage Society's sandwich board (chalk) for events.
- Jane volunteers a brand-new shade cloth. It is agreed this would be useful for the AGM (will put up with carabiners so it is temporary).
- Discussion Item: Nancy suggests that perhaps PICA buy a tent for events.
 - Nancy will ask her sister about the size/cost of the tent she purchased
 - Casey does a Google search and reports that a 33' x 20' tent can be purchased for \$1,110.
 - Anne notes that we just received a donation of \$1000. Jenn suggests the idea of using the BBQ donations for purchase of a tent – people more apt to donate if they know why. This idea meets with unilateral approval.

New Business: Safety Concerns, Road Construction

- Multiple attendees observe that the dump trucks are driving at a speed that jeopardizes safety, particularly during a time when the dust is high and traffic includes cyclists, pedestrians including children and tourists, pets, and ATVs.
- Discussion: while it is recognized that the provincial speed limits for unmarked roads are greater than the conventionally-held island limit of 40km/hr (in ideal conditions), it is true that all posted and unposted speed limits are superseded by the legal requirement of 'driving in accordance with conditions'.
- While a DoT representative recently visited the island, Paula reports that he was here to check engineering specifications, not safety.
- Sheila suggests that a first course of action might be to reach out to those islanders involved in the project. Anna will do so.
- Motion: That a formal letter be drafted and sent to our MLA and the DoT, outlining real safety concerns including speed.
Motion: Brenda Spence-MacLeod **Seconded:** Bonnie Rankin
- **Vote:** all in favor, motion carried
- Logistics

- Amy will draft letter, Anna will review and send on PICA's behalf
- Bonnie will provide contact information for DoT
- **Discussion Item:** Jenn reports that Vince had talked to DoT about bushwhacking the roadsides, but DoT declined. Nancy reports that AI has requested that this be done for area around airstrip. Nancy suggests this needs to be a conversation between the engineers and the financiers. Anne notes that DoT paid for this to be done some years ago. Jenn notes current crew loses the barge on July 29th.
 - Nancy notes that this is a provincial issue, and that people should make phone calls to Karla McFarland to express their concern and noting that the equipment is currently on the island.

Continued Business: Heritage Society & Lighthouse

- Brenda reports that in response to invitation issued by Ed on behalf of PICA, the Heritage Society is interested in taking on stewardship of the wharf lighthouse, but has some concerns to address before committing:
 - Liability: what sort of insurance is held by PICA? Anne will look into this. (Brenda notes this might be a good time for PICA to review their insurance coverage overall.)
 - Financial support: would PICA be willing to assist with upkeep costs? Anne reports that \$1,660 remains earmarked for lighthouse. If Heritage Society takes on stewardship they will have access to these funds.
 - Is PICA willing to continue groundskeeping of property (mowing around lighthouse)?

Item for Addition to Next Meeting's Agenda

- MaryAnne notes we have an agreement whereby garbage is taken off the island twice a year and requests that the current agreement be discussed at the next meeting.

Request for Status Update: Church Repairs

- Sheila asks about the status of repairs to the Church.
- Myrna reports that they have been trying to get bell tower repaired for several years.
 - Nancy suggests that with Rob's limited bandwidth, perhaps we should identify how much money remains, identify what needs to be done (bell tower, gutters); and try to find another contractor. The bell tower must be done before the gutters, although materials for gutter work are already onsite.
 - David O'Hearn (who put deck on lighthouse) is mentioned, but Brenda reports she believes he isn't interested in working further on the island.
 - Jenn reports that Rob won't be able to address the bell tower before the roadwork concludes on July 29th, and notes that it may be a larger job than initially expected.
 - Nancy asks that if anyone knows anyone who is good with heights, please suggest helping out on this project to them.
- Church repairs will be added as official agenda item for next meeting.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: MaryAnne MacDonald

Seconded: Myrna LeBlanc

Vote: all in favor, motion carried