

**Meeting Date:** May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Meeting Minutes

*Prepared by: Amy Harding, Secretary*

Please submit proposed corrections or omissions to [amy@hardingworks.org](mailto:amy@hardingworks.org) no later than 14 days after Minutes publication date.

### In Attendance

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Anna LeBlanc, President  
Bonnie Rankin, Vice-President  
Ed George, Treasurer  
Amy Harding, Secretary

#### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

David Harding  
Maureen Hull  
Myrna LeBlanc  
Aaron (Butch) MacDonald  
MaryAnne MacDonald  
Sarah MacDonald  
Darryl Rankin  
Sheila Rankin  
Linda Schweitzer

#### COMMUNITY ATTENDEES

Casey O'Shea  
Petra Rankin\*

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Anne Chaldecott  
Skip Hamilton (*online*)  
Nancy MacDonald

### Call to Order, Approvals

President Anna LeBlanc calls meeting to order

- Call for motion to approve minutes from October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting  
**Motion:** Anne Chaldecott      **Seconded:** Bonnie Rankin  
**Vote:** motion passes without dissent, motion carried

### Agenda Item: Committee Updates

#### Events Committee

- Amy reports that while Gretchen Maguire is not able to attend the meeting, she has volunteered to take on leadership of the Events Committee. No alternate proposals are presented by those in attendance; the offer is accepted with appreciation. Amy will let Gretchen know.
  - PICA may issue 'calls for volunteers' for specific events where support is needed.

#### Summer Student Committee\*\*

- Nancy currently leads this committee, but would like to step down.
- Anne suggests there be 2-3 people who get together and figure out what needs to be done by each position (PARL-supported 'tech' position; and groundskeeping position) and come up with a list of tasks. Linda amends this to suggest that a selection of people who are familiar with supervising the positions should convene and discuss what that entails as well.
  - Anna offers to participate in these meetings (having held the groundskeeping job herself in recent years).

*\*Petra is listed under 'Community' rather than 'Member' only because official members must be 18 or older.*

*\*\*See 'Student Jobs' section for additional details on status of this year's positions*

- Sarah comments that it would be helpful to have the tech student attend community meetings (notes that having Ashlynn attend PIFD meetings in the past was very helpful).

#### Lighthouse Committee

- Ed suggests discussion of whether we should transit stewardship of the (wharf) lighthouse to the Heritage Society, if they are willing to manage it. (Notes they paid for the deck and railing construction.)
- Ed makes motion to approach Heritage Society to take on stewardship of lighthouse. Motion is met with no dissent.

#### Ferry Committee

- It is noted that Bill Fraser is currently ‘a committee of one.’
- Linda suggests that we put out a call for volunteers via email.

#### Communications Committee

- Amy volunteers to join Communications Committee to support as Linda’s ‘second’. Linda remains primary contact for this committee.

### **Agenda Item: Student Summer Positions**

#### Groundskeeping Job

- Amy reports that she reached out to our Canada Summer Jobs Program Officer regarding our application and was informed that a decision has not yet been made on our application.
- Anna suggests that if a funding decision isn’t made (or if we don’t receive a grant) that we plan to hire someone for 10hrs/week to do the mowing. Anne agrees this is in line with precedent. No objections are presented. It is agreed upon as a topic for next meeting.
- Amy notes that Hannah Fleury has expressed interest in the position. Aaron offers to supervise and reports that Isaac (MacDonald) is willing to help with training, as he held the position recently.
  - Amy will reach out to Hannah with an update (re: that we are still waiting on funding).

#### Tech Job

- Linda reports that funding has been approved by PARL for this position. Nancy received an email confirming 35hrs/week for 10 weeks, with a (flexible) start date of June 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Casey O’Shea expresses interest in the position.

### **Report: Website Updates**

- Linda has spoken with PARL regarding the design of the website. They responded that website design was both a large project and also that having recently done a redesign for us, we would ‘be at the back of the line’ should we request another one.
  - Context: the design decision at the time was made to use a relatively inflexible template, geared toward ‘tourism’. This limits our ability to modify it and to present ‘community-oriented’ information in an accessible way.
- Linda has been looking into getting a simple template where we have control.
  - David asks whether we own the web domain – Linda believes the library owns it. Ed suggests we might consider buying it and hosting it somewhere with a more flexible editing tool.

- MaryAnne asks whether we need to host the domain through PARL to be eligible for funding – Linda confirms we do not.

**Agenda Item: Summer Events Schedule**

- Anna reports the Board of Directors approved Sharran Anne Cameron’s request to use the Church and Community Centre as a backup (inclement weather) location for her daughter’s wedding on July 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - Ed volunteers to help with transporting the dancefloor and tables.
  - While there is no official rental fee, a donation to PICA is encouraged and it is expected that facilities are cleaned after use. Anna has communicated this to Sharran and will follow up with her in June to confirm.
- Regarding scheduling summer events, Ed observes that Rob Boudreau may be doing a pig roast as a celebration of life for Nancy Boudreau and that we might want to schedule around that. Ed calls Rob, Rob wants to confer with Mike and will get back to Ed.
- PICA Meeting Date Change: It is agreed to reschedule the next meeting to June 24<sup>th</sup> due to scheduling conflicts.
- Food Auction: Amy reports that while Chris Stafford is not able to attend today’s meeting, he has volunteered to act as Auctioneer for this year’s Food Auction and as of today has no weekend conflicts this summer. Linda reminds us that there was a decision made to also provide an online component to the Auction – details will be further discussed after hire for Tech Summer Position.
- AGM & Kitchen Party: Sarah asks whether we will host a BBQ following AGM, as has been done in past years (excluding 2022). It is agreed that there will be a BBQ, but that it will now be a fundraiser by donation.
- With the above considerations in mind, those in attendance agree to the following event dates:

Date	Event	Location
June 24th	PICA Monthly Meeting	Community Centre
July 1st	Island Work Party & Potluck	Community Centre
July 15th	Junk Run 1 of 2	Wharf
July 15th	PICA Monthly Meeting	Community Centre
July 29th	Concert: Jud Gunning & Tara Spencer	Church
August 5th	Annual Food Auction	Community Centre & Online
August 12th	"Picnic in the Park"	John MacCallum Memorial Park
August 19th	PICA Monthly Meeting	Community Centre
August 19th	Junk Run 2 of 2	Wharf
August 26th	PICA AGM & BBQ (by donation)	Community Centre
August 26th	Annual Kitchen Party	Dance Hall

### Agenda Item: Ferry Service Update

- Amy notes that the changes requested of Ryan & Nicole as discussed in the last meeting of 2022 (sent in letter by Bill Fraser) have been incorporated into website. Bill emailed Ryan & Nicole to thank them.
- Anna observes that with the first (weather) cancellation of the season, the information was immediately available via 511, and that everyone with a reservation got a text.
- David points out that Captain Kirk and crew receive the number of reservations made, but not specific names. He observes that anyone challenged should be able to find their confirmation in their email. Linda points out that the reservation doesn't indicate how many people are in a single reservation.

### Agenda Item: Burn Ban / Danger of Fire

- Like everywhere in the province, the island is incredibly dry this year. When added to the fact that there is substantial deadfall in the woods from Hurricane Fiona, the danger of fire is extremely high. A single ember could have devastating effects on the entire island. The question at hand is: how to message the critical importance of 'no fires!' to visitors who may not appreciate the severity of the situation.
- Anne points out we are all responsible for messaging and emphasizing this.
- Anna proposes that the summer student be tasked with creating new 'no fire' signs – one visible immediately upon exiting the ferry. Sarah suggests the addition of one halfway down the island.
- Sarah suggests that buckets of sand be placed at all community locations for disposal of cigarette butts.
- Anne notes these tasks should be added to the list of summer student job tasks.
- Regarding messaging Bonnie mentions the concept of 'please don't burn down our home' (in line with the pamphlet 'Please Don't Die on Pictou Island').

### General Discussion

- Internet Service
  - Ed reports that PARL sent two cellular internet 'fobs' to Nancy (which appear to have been a COVID-response to increased need for internet access in rural areas). They are from the US, use Bell, and work better than satellite data – but the service is extremely expensive.
  - Anna will follow up with Marley from the municipality regarding their plans for internet provision (re: the antennae currently sitting in the Community Centre).
- 911 Services
  - Ed notes that Emergency Services are using a new third-party app, through which information (texts and emails) seems to be flowing more smoothly
- Island Brochures
  - Linda reviewed the brochure drafts (unpublished, drafted several years ago) and compared them to information available on the website. The only content not available on the website is the list of people offering services. Amy notes she thinks this is why

the brochures weren't published originally – there was concern about releasing people's private information. Suggests that perhaps we could have the Tech Position hire contact people/companies and ask if they would like their information/services included on our website.

- A copy of the original 'Please Don't Die on Pictou Island' brochure is located in the Community Centre. It is agreed that the Tech hire will redo it and include a 'burn ban / fire warning' emphasis.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn: David Harding

Seconded: Myrna LeBlanc

Vote: all in favor, motion carried