

## PICTOU ISLAND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

**Meeting Date:** August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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  
Anne Chaldecott, Treasurer  
Amy Harding, Secretary (*remote*)

#### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Susan Forsyth  
Bill Fraser  
Gloria Fraser  
Ed George  
Cathy Gibbon  
AJ Law  
Paula Law  
Andrew LeBlanc

Myrna LeBlanc  
Aaron (Butch) MacDonald  
Isaac MacDonald  
Gretchen Maguire  
Linda Rankin  
Linda Schweitzer  
Brenda Spence-MacLeod  
Alan Tufts

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jennifer Langille  
Nancy MacDonald

### Call to Order, Approvals

President Anna LeBlanc calls meeting to order

- Motion to approve minutes from July meeting  
**Motion:** Anna LeBlanc   **Seconded:** Gretchen  
**Vote:** all in favor, motion carried

### PICA Thank Yous!

In addition to discussing 'island business,' PICA meetings are an opportunity to recognize and thank volunteers who have made particularly noteworthy contributions to the community in the preceding month.



## August 2024: PICA Would Like to Thank...

- **Steve Smith** for his donation of a window to the Church!
- **Skip** for replacing rockboard on... something! [Secretary lost audio connection]
- Brenda, on behalf of The Heritage Society, would like to thank **everyone who helped get things ready for Heritage Day!**

### Agenda Item: Continuing Business - Updates

- Municipality Wifi Access Project:

PICTOU ISLAND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

general inquiries: [pictouisland@gmail.com](mailto:pictouisland@gmail.com)

PICA business: contact [annaleblanc2013@gmail.com](mailto:annaleblanc2013@gmail.com), CC [amyharding@hardingworks.org](mailto:amyharding@hardingworks.org)

- MOPC met the week of August 5<sup>th</sup>, and things are looking favorable. The River John tower is being upgraded and they believe it will work to provide service to the island.
  - Their goal is to set up and test wifi at the Community Centre in late August or early September
  - Full-time residents are encouraged to sign up as 'testers' this year.
  - Technicians will return in May to set up seasonal residents' access.
- Alternatives to MOPC:
  - Amy is waiting to hear from Starlink regarding options for seasonal service
  - Ed confirms that Starlink can be turned on and off month-by-month
- Community Centre Outhouse:
  - Isaac is painting the outhouse
- Craft Auction:
  - The online Craft Auction is live, and bids will be accepted until noon AST on Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - Jenn notes that the Church ramp should be blocked off, as it is a safety hazard.
- Ferry Etiquette Document:
  - Amy reports this is not complete. She will get a draft to the ferry committee with a request they share it with PI Charters. Linda will add it to our website, as well.
- Brushcutting:
  - Darla wrote an email on our behalf to the province about this. Stretch is planning to talk to Scott in person about this, and Jenn is awaiting confirmation to follow up with a letter.
- Dance Hall:
  - Improvements still pending, but new tech has been added to the sound system allowing for cell phone connection.
  - The organ in the hall came from Alfie's.
  - Ed volunteers to coordinate with Stevie to extend stage (fill in left side), add steps, and remove the organ to Junk Run.
  - Motion to remove organ, contact Stevie, and do necessary carpentry *if* it can be done in advance of the 8/24 Kitchen Party.

Motion: Anna LeBlanc      Seconded: Nancy

Vote: all in favor, motion carried

### PIFD Report (Jennifer Langille)

- Municipality is providing APD for East End; coming over to meet with PIFD, and to work on maps for evacuation plan. There may be opportunity for PIFD to take municipal fire training paid for by MOPC.
- The black fire truck is fixed (both currently running).
- Jenn sent a letter on behalf of PIFD requesting that their annual funding (which has been \$6,000 for many years) be increased to \$15,000-\$20,000 (commensurate with funding provided to other similar NS community fire departments)
- The cost for civic numbers has gone down to \$30. Anyone who paid more this summer will be refunded.
- **If anyone does not have a posted civic number sign, please reach out to Jenn.**

## Harbour Authority Report (Jennifer Langille)

- Repair of the floating dock is complete. The old section will be stored on-island.
- The Recycling person from DFO visited wharf this past week. SCH is talking about coming over August 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Confirmation from SHA that wall of West Wharf cannot be removed without damaging structural integrity.
- SHA has received a quote for the boom: \$21,200 (not including concrete or winch hook machinery, estimated at another \$3,000).
  - Original plan was to increase governor on existing machine, but this is about \$3,000 and there are some concerns about the salt-water tolerance of available parts
  - SCH won't pay for the boom, but they *might* pay for the parts. However, they have not yet received their annual funding.
  - SCH *will* pay for required concrete improvements because it is part of the wharf structure
  - There has been some suggestion that the quote provided may include more than we actually require; Jenn will follow up with Emily Gillis/SteelPro.
  - Goal is to have winch up and running by spring.
    - Intended outcomes: 2,000lb capacity, 12-foot reach; set at loading dock (so can load from land or water).
  - Darla recommends reaching out to Marco for potential assistance with funding opportunities. Amy thinks she has found a grant we may be eligible for.

## Agenda Item: PICA Treasurer Role

- After many years of service, for which PICA is very grateful, Anne is stepping down as Treasurer. She will stay on as a co-signer.
- The person who takes over this role will receive support from Anne and the rest of the Executive Committee.
- A summary of Treasurer duties is as follows:
  - Enter deposits and expenses in ledger
  - Produce Income Statement and Balance Sheet for year-end (May 31)
  - Renew Joint Stocks report every year and submit Bank Statements
  - Keep records for all deposits and expenses
  - Manage deposits to PICA bank account
  - Support applications for grant funding by providing organizational details to Secretary & other PICA grant writers
  - Supply copies of expenses for Municipal Grant Projects
- **We will be calling for a Treasurer at the AGM.** If you are interested, please let Anna know.
  - Treasurer must also join Board of Directors.

## Agenda Items: Road Safety & Community Considerations

- Anna received a request that PICA issue a reminder about the community speed limit (40km/hr).
- Please have an adult present if you are a junior driver.
- Please pick up after your dog on any and all public property, including wharf area and road.

## Agenda Item: PICA Bylaws Revision

- Anna, Bonnie, & Amy have received member feedback on the draft circulated – thank you!
- General Consensus & Community Input – Discussion Topics
  - Whether criteria for membership category IV (vested involvement applicants) is too involved.
  - Clarification of ‘voting member’ status: you have to submit your name to Secretary to be in official register, and attend a minimum of 2 meetings per year (condition so that vote stacking a meeting cannot occur)
  - That Category I (land owner) should be opt-out, rather than opt-in.
  - That Category II (permanent resident) members should be required to provide a piece of ID with their Pictou Island address.
  - That landowners and primary residents should *de facto* be allowed to vote. That other members can vote if: they have 2 meetings in the previous year *or* as soon as they have attended 2 meetings within the previous 12 months.
  - Category III (immediate family): specifying that ‘common law’ means the NS Government’s definition of ‘common law’; Adding ‘parents’
  - Changing number of directors to range: 7-10. Changing quorum to 10.
  - BOD criteria: requirement of attending 4 meetings per year, including virtual.
  - No proxy voting.
  - Not implementing term limits for BOD, ExComm.
- ExComm will distribute current draft to PI email list by Monday August 12<sup>th</sup>, with a deadline of Friday August 19<sup>th</sup> for final feedback.
- By special resolution of the President: a vote will be held at the AGM (August 24<sup>th</sup>) on whether to adopt the revised bylaws.

## New Business

### Ferry Service

- In the event of a run cancelled due to weather, the issue of when the make-up run is scheduled is of concern, as noted by Ed & Linda. Jenn shares she believes the contract language states the make-up is meant to take place ‘at the next opportunity.’
  - There are real costs, for travelers in both directions, to not being able to get home. These costs continue to increase if the make-up run doesn’t occur as soon as the weather improves.
- A suggestion is made that the mandate/responsibilities of the PICA Ferry Committee be clarified.
- Anna notes that the discussion of cancelled runs, make-up runs, ferry committee responsibilities, and impacts of ferry service running from Caribou will be added to the agenda for the next regular meeting (September).
  - If any member would like to voice their concerns in the meantime, please write to John Majchrowicz, NS Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

## Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Nancy MacDonald

Seconded: Bonnie Rankin

Vote: all in favor, motion carried

