

Meeting Date: July 20th, 2024

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
Anne Chaldecott, Treasurer
Amy Harding, Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jennifer Langille
Nancy MacDonald

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Susan Forsyth
Maureen Hull
Paula Law
Gretchen Maguire
Sheila Rankin
Darryl Rankin
David Read
Linda Schweitzer
Brenda Spence-MacLeod
Geoff White

Call to Order, Approvals

President Anna LeBlanc calls meeting to order

- Call for motion to approve minutes from June meeting
- Motion to approve June minutes

Motion: Gretchen Maguire **Seconded:** Nancy MacDonald

Vote: all in favor, motion carried

New Initiative: PICA Thank Yous!

Beginning this month, PICA meetings will be a forum to recognize and thank volunteers who have made particularly noteworthy contributions to the community in the preceding month.

- *Anne suggests we send a 'Thank You' email as well – Communications Committee will manage.*
- Each month when the Executive Committee solicits items for upcoming PICA meeting agenda, they will also ask for submissions for the Thank Yous list.



July 2024: PICA Would Like to Thank...

- **Edmund** for the new outhouse, and signs for the East End changing room and outhouse!
- **Jenn & Rob & Kay** for securing and transporting our event tent *and* for filling the old outhouse hole!

PICTOU ISLAND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

general inquiries: pictouisland@gmail.com

PICA business: contact annaleblanc2013@gmail.com, CC amyharding@hardingworks.org

- **Skip** for scoping, designing, and leading the build team for our new picnic tables!
- **Earlene** for planting flowers at the McCallum Memorial Park!
- **Geoff White** for helping unload pretty much every boat so far this year!
- & *everyone* who helped out with Junk Run #1!

Agenda Item: Continuing Business - Updates

- Municipality Wifi Access Project:
 - Anna reports that MOPC is reporting that issues with towers and signal strength make the prospect of bringing service to Pictou Island 'not promising'. They are meeting internally on July 23rd to discuss possibility of adding new technology to existing towers. If they add additional equipment to boost signal to either the River John or Pictou towers, they will revisit the idea of service to the island.
 - Anna will follow up with MOPC to discover results of their meeting
 - Amy will draft letter for Anna to send to MOPC outlining impact on island population (CCing counselor). Anna will find out source of funds (as Jenn raises the question: is this *our* tax dollars at work on this project?)
- Discussion - Community WiFi Alternatives:
 - Nancy suggests reaching out to True North to have them reassess service options at Community Centre. If MOPC decides not to reexamine PI as service area, Anna will reach out to True North.
 - Geoff suggests Starlink is an option that would provide a quick resolution, if we were able to secure/raise funds. Amy suggests PARL might be asked to contribute for the 3 months that their island C@P site is active, and PICA might then fund the other 3 months? Jenn asks if Starlink offers periodic service (a 6 month option). Anna & Amy will do research to determine possibilities.
- Update: Church Safety Measures:
 - Grippy tape has been installed on the stairs and works well. It is determined that this will be installed at Dance Hall as well.
 - Jenn notes that the Church ramp should be blocked off, as it is a safety hazard.
- Update: Community Centre Outhouse:
 - Edmund has suggested adding a plastic pipe for ventilation. Dave Read has some, and will take a look, drill a hole, and install.
 - An additional \$100 will be spent to put trim with roofing.
 - A proper path from Church to Outhouse.
 - Need to request right of way; question of land ownership: Ed George or Bruce Thomspen? Nancy & Anne will determine.
 - Motion: That the outhouse be painted the same colour as all other community buildings onsite.

Motion: Susan Forsyth **Seconded:** Nancy MacDonald
Vote: all in favor, motion carried
- Brenda notes the Heritage Society has paint, and will donate it for this purpose. This will be added to groundskeeper's list of tasks, along with installing the moon made and donated by Allan Tufts.

- **Note: Island Communications via Community Email:**
 - Although the C@P site is active and Jack has an associated email, all community notices should be sent through/via the Pictou Island gmail account – as the C@P email becomes inactive and inaccessible once the work term concludes.
 - Casey will advise Jack to refer any such messages to Amy/Linda for distribution.

Heritage Society Report (Brenda Spence-McLeod)

- Brenda gives a summary of the planned activities for Heritage Day (Saturday, July 27th).
 - Convening at wharf lighthouse at 11am, the event begins with unveiling of interpretive panels and plaque. The tour will travel to East End park for lunch (boxed lunches available for \$15), and then to the Community Centre to explore museum and grounds. There will be a 3pm Kitchen Party at the Church, with music by Doris Mason, Katie Gunn, and island talent. Tickets are \$20, available from Brenda, Sheila R., or Lorne.
 - The tour and entertainment is not just for people arriving from off-island, but islanders as well.
 - The Heritage Society requests assistance in scraping and priming the lower half of the wharf lighthouse before the event (Monday 22/7 morning).
 - Communications Team will send call for volunteers email as well
 - Anna will make sure Ike mows and whippersnips around the lighthouse before the event.

PIFD Report (Jennifer Langille)

- Motion: That the storage section (back entrance) of the East End changing rooms be used for first aid and fire equipment storage.
 - Motion: Jennifer Langille Seconded: Nancy MacDonald
 - Vote: all in favor, motion carried
- Anne notes that PIFD bought a new pump (Community Centre) – thank you!

Harbour Authority Report (Jennifer Langille)

- Aaron (Butch) provided cost assessment for wiring (lighting); this has been submitted to Smallcraft Harbours.
- Jenn has followed up with SCH about missing ice shields: is awaiting response.
- The winch assessment has been completed. The result is that they requiring the pouring of a concrete slab 3-4' x 6'-7' to meet install requirements for the winch they have to sell to us (which will support weight of up to 2000lbs and provide a 12' reach).
 - This will be done at the loading dock
 - Some protection will need to be installed around it so that it doesn't get backed into
 - They are waiting on an Engineer to provide quote for cost (anticipated visit to island Monday July 29th).
- The Coast Guard has inspected wharf navigation lights and increased the strength of port & starboard beacons.

- Jenn notes with gratitude that Ruth noticed the west end lighthouse was out, and called to report it. Nancy notes that it's a good idea to also contact Jenn if this sort of navigational issue is discovered as well.
- HA has requested more substantial solar lights from SCH.

Agenda Item: PICA Meeting – Remote Participation

- Amy notes that online audio has been an issue for online participants, particularly remote attendees hearing what is said by in-person attendees across the room from device used for Zoom connection. She suggests that a Jabra portable meeting speaker is a good option for picking up in-room speech, at a cost of about \$150.
- Motion: That PICA purchase a Jabra speaker for use in PICA meetings.
 Motion: Susan Forsyth **Seconded:** Nancy MacDonald
 Vote: all in favor, motion carried
- Amy will research and purchase.

Agenda Item: PICA Fundraising

- After last year's success, it is agreed that the annual fundraising auction will again have two components: the in-person food auction will be complimented by an online craft auction, managed by the C@P student. Last year's craft auction proceeds were designated for the Church Committee.
- This year's annual BBQ (following the AGM) will again be a by-donation event. Last year's proceeds were earmarked for purchase of our event tent.
- Motion: That the proceeds from this year's online craft auction and annual BBQ be donated to the Harbour Authority.
 Motion: Nancy MacDonald **Seconded:** Anne Chaldecott
 Vote: all in favor, motion carried
- On behalf of the Harbour Authority, Jenn Langille thanks PICA for this support.

Agenda Item: Ferry Reservation System

- Issues observed include:
 - Lack of clarity surrounding waitlist/second runs: it is not widely known or well signposted that those wanting to be on the second run are meant to contact PI Charters if a run is full. Additionally, the first run disappears from the booking schedule once full.
 - No easy way to cancel a reservation (need to email).
 - Queue jumpers (those boarding without reservations) and lack of means of verifying a reservation is in fact held.

- Paula has sent a list of recommended reminders to the Ferry Committee (not represented at meeting). She will fwd to Amy; Amy will review and distribute.
- Linda suggests we draft requested/suggested language for the PI Charters website, and offers to put together this draft.
- Linda notes much of this information is on *our* website, and that the people on the PI email list aren't the people who most need reminders/guidelines communicated to them. We can include a request that individuals on the list "please share this with your guests."

Agenda Item: Floating Dock Repair

- Bonnie reports that John Majchrowicz had not heard from Captain Ryan that there was a problem with the dock.
 - Al believes the entire third section of the floating dock needs to be replaced. Jenn says they know what they need to do it.
 - Gretchen reports that the conditions of the province's purchase of the floating dock were that 'we [the island] own it, it's ours to maintain.'
 - **Update 22/7:** Anne spoke with Ed George, who reports that the floating dock section will cost a minimum of \$5,000.
 - Amy will ask the Ferry Committee to ask Ryan to convey this to John.

Agenda Item: AGM BBQ Tasks

- Kathy & Steve Smith have a new BBQ and have offered their old one to the Community Centre (which PICA appreciatively accepts)
- Additional BBQs will be provided by David & Susan, Nancy & Al. Anna (Andrew) will have a backup BBQ on standby).
- Gretchen will provide a cooker. Bonnie & Anna have relatively big pots.
- Plates, napkins, buns, and condiments will be organized by Gretchen.
- Gretchen will order corn & sausages, but will need assistance with the pickups. Anna and Gretchen will communicate about this.

Agenda Item: Bylaw Revisions

- As review of suggested revisions to PICA bylaws will be an agenda item for August 10th PICA meeting, Amy will send out a 'last call' for suggestions.

Agenda Item: Donation of Funds Raised at Potluck

- Motion: That the proceeds from last month's potluck be donated to Pictou West Food Bank.
 Motion: Gretchen Maguire **Seconded:** Nancy MacDonald
 Vote: all in favor, motion carried

New Business

Maintenance: Community Outhouses

- Sheila notes that during 'high season' and particularly events, while we have a groundskeeper, the community outhouse supplies (TP and hand sanitizer) need to be checked with greatly increased frequency (at times, daily). Anna will communicate this to Ike, and it will be included in the 'position guidelines' document being developed.
- Suggested additions to community outhouses:
 - Small trash cans (with garbage bags in bottom)
 - Clear totes that will hold ~4 rolls of TP
 - Anna will get these items at the Dollar Store

PI Quilt Square Cards

- We have 10 boxes, but more should be ordered.
- Inventorying cards will be a job for the C@P student

Reminder: Event Space Usage

- Every event, whether put on by a community organization or not, that uses community event space is expected to have a cleanup crew plan and a person identified as point of contact who takes responsibility for making sure the space is "left as you found it."

Dance Hall Improvements for Kitchen Party

- The Thursday Night Band (who will be performing at the Kitchen Party) has requested that the gap at the west end of the stage (between stage and wall) in the Dance Hall be filled in, as it is a hazard. It is also suggested that stairs up to the stage be added.
- Motion: That the gap at the end of the Dance Hall stage be filled in, and stairs be added to stage.
- **Motion:** Nancy MacDonald **Seconded:** Brenda Spence-McLeod
- **Vote:** all in favor, motion carried
- Nancy will ask around for volunteers to complete this project.
- Anna will ask Billy where the organ in the Dance Hall is from. (No one attending is able to identify it's origin – Amy thinks it might have come from Alfie's house.) Removal of the organ may be considered if it is not identified as having historical significance to the community.

Event Tent - Rental

- Jenn asks if PICA has a plan for tent rental. Anna notes that its use has the same expectations as using the Community Centre: that a donation be made to PICA.
 - **Note:** At this time, there has been no provision made by PICA for allowing the tent to be *moved* from its current location should an individual or group wish to use it.

Brushcutting (Ditches)

- Jenn notes that an increasing number of driveways now have limited visibility, creating a safety hazard. She reports DOT has bought a new machine suited to this work, and that there may be a barge coming in the next few weeks. Should we write a letter requesting service?

- Bonnie suggests the letter could be sent to DOT and copy PI's new MLA (who is coming to the island August 10th).
- PIFD will prepare a letter; PICA (Amy) will as well.
- PICA will encourage island residents to write letters as well, and will email out contact info and guidance on doing so.

Events Update

- The Sunday before the Junk Run (August 11th), there will be a community-wide 'Junk Show & Swap'. Anyone interested in participating should take a green flag from the C@P site and place it at the bottom of their driveway by 9am that day. This will let people know that the property has a pile of 'junk' available for the taking. Additional details will be sent out via email. Participants are advised to pile the 'junk' they'd like to give away in a clear space in their yard, away from things that are *not* available junk.
- There will be a baseball game this coming Sunday at Craig Smith's: additional details will be sent via email.
- Chris and Gretchen will be hosting an open house on August 3rd, 1pm-4pm, to celebrate 50 Years on Pictou Island. Food will be served, people are welcome to bring desserts. There will be a dance at the Hall that evening, beginning at 8pm.
- There will be a **Rate Payers Meeting** at 10am on August 3rd. **If you would like to discuss MOPC providing WiFi, please attend.**
- Motion: To change the start time of Junk Run #2 to 8am, and the AGM BBQ start time to 6pm.
Motion: Susan Forsyth **Seconded:** Brenda Spence-McLeod
Vote: all in favor, motion carried

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Susan Forsyth

Seconded: Brenda Spence-MacLeod

Vote: all in favor, motion carried