

## PICTOU ISLAND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

**Meeting Date:** July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Meeting Minutes

*Prepared by: Amy Harding, Secretary*

Please submit proposed corrections or omissions to [amy@hardingworks.org](mailto:amy@hardingworks.org) by **August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025**.

### In Attendance

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Anna LeBlanc,

Amy Harding, Secretary (*remote*)

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Anne Chaldecott

Jennifer Langille

#### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Gloria Fraser

Cathy Gibson

Joyce Halasz

Phillip Landry

Myrna LeBlanc

Gretchen Maguire

Sheila Rankin

Kathy Smith

Steve Smith

### Call to Order, Approvals

President Anna LeBlanc calls meeting to order

- Motion to approve minutes from June meeting

**Motion:** Sheila Rankin   **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.



## July 2025: PICA Would Like to Thank...

- **Travis**, for the wonderful job he did painting the church door!
- **Sarah, MaryAnne, Ley, and Kay** for their help at the wharf breakfast fundraiser!
- Special thanks to our *youngest* volunteers, Aspyr & Sage, who ran a lemon-'aid' stand to raise money for a stretcher during the wharf breakfast.

### Agenda Item: Rate Payers Meeting Summary & Municipal Funding Update

- The annual Rate Payers meeting was held July 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Darla shared that there is a new MOPC initiative "community connectivity grants," from which we will receive \$500. The funds must be used for a community event, and will not carry over year to

PICTOU ISLAND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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year. A motion was passed to use the \$500 to help offset for our annual BBQ. Appreciation expressed to Darla for having our interests in mind!

- We have just under \$5,000 available through a municipal services grant (an accumulation of several years of funding). Rob Boudreau has provided a quote for installation of a ramp for the Community Centre, which is estimated to cost about \$9,000. Anna has identified an alternate accessibility grant through which we may be able to fund the ramp.
- Darla noted that we can claim this funding as 'upgrades to the Community Centre.' Discussion of possibilities for grant use included painting the Community Centre, and replacement of the windows (which, it is generally agreed, should be done before painting.)
- Steve will consult on window replacement and discuss with Rob about structural considerations for this project.
- Motion to use municipal services grant for partial funding of replacement windows on south side of Community Centre:

**Motion:** Gretchen Maguire **Seconded:** [not captured]

**Vote:** all in favor, motion carried

- Gretchen notes we could provide volunteer labour to help Rob. Anna points out painting the Community Centre used to be part of summer student job; that position can definitely provide help with scraping.
- The issue of our overgrown ditches was also discussed at RatePaters. This is a county-wide issue, as there is only one piece of equipment for all of Pictou County West. Darla recommended sending letter to province: see additional information in section below.

#### **Agenda Item: Alders in Ditches / Road Safety**

- The province has a 1-800 number (**1-844-696-7737**) to call about this: every call will open a ticket. The more tickets, the better. An individual may call more than once. Anne suggests we send out an email with the info and encourage everyone to call.
- Sheila notes it is important that we emphasize the *safety* – of children; wildlife; pets.
- Gretchen suggests we should have more children playing signs. Can DOT they provide? Anna will approach Bonnie about getting more signage.
- Jenn: requests two-way traffic reminder sign(s) for north side road.

#### **Agenda Item: Continuing Business - Updates**

##### Solar Upgrades:

- Solar updates have been installed! There was a delay with parts for the final plumbing bits. Geoff H. did a lot of research on getting affordable system. Electrical is done, and only the hot water remains – but it is close to completion.

##### Ramp for Community Centre:

- Per request from last meeting, Rob Boudreau provided quote for installation of an accessible ramp to Community Centre entrance. He estimates the job will cost about \$9,000.
- Anna has found out that provincial accessibility grants are not opening their 'small projects' component this year. However, here's a 'youth' component if you're under 30. Anna is, so she is in process of completing application. While it is not due until October she is aiming to submit this

month. Funding would be available next year if we get it. If we don't get it, can apply for provincial accessibility funding in time for next year.

#### Summer Students:

- Both students are up and running: Jackson at the C@P site and Raymond as groundskeeper. Raymond is working Tu, Th, Fri; Jackson works Th-Sun.
- We need work and projects and ideas for them. If anyone has a project suggestion for Raymond (Groundskeeping), please see Anna. Any community member with a project for Jackson may reach out to him directly, but please CC Anna so that she can assist with prioritization.
- It is noted that outhouse at east end is due for a scrape and paint.
- Jenn has some PIFD projects for Jackson; he is also working on the PI brochure and the Phone List.
- Anna notes that Nancy's place needs to be removed from Accommodations section of brochure.
- Anna asks: do we want to revive 'Please Don't Die on Pictou Island? And put it on the ferry? We should ask ferry crew what FAQs they get.

#### Insurance:

- Anna has the insurance documents for Jenn to review. Building insurance policies term end is Nov 24<sup>th</sup>. We can discuss at next meeting, after Jenn's review.
- Anna confirms that PIHS buildings are not covered under the current insurance policy. We will need to discuss and decide what we're going to insure: with the salient question being 'what would we actually rebuild if it burned down?'
- Jenn reminds everyone of what Bill Fraser noted in previous discussion/review of policy: basis of a loss settlement is settled to the depreciated value of a building, as opposed to actual cost of repairs. Also, policy does not cover burglary or vandalism. There is a clause requiring that assets be insured to at least 90% of their assessed worth to avoid penalty in event of loss.
- The Community Centre is PICA's most valuable physical asset. It is suggested that Rob be asked for quote to rebuild. The building's current valuation is \$46K, but costs to rebuild would likely be much higher.
- The Church is currently valued at \$69K, but the question is raised: is it even replaceable? Same question to be considered of Lighthouse.
- Anna confirms we have Director Insurance through NS Rec.

#### **Agenda Item: Event Updates**

- Cathy suggests that any events that involve money/payment should be preceded by an email including expected donation amount, and explaining what the donation is for (particularly when PICA is donating to an external charitable organization). We should also make sure details for e-transfer are available (e.g. on a printed sign, as well as in the email reminder).
- It is suggested that the potluck after the PICA Work Party should be a 'thank you' for the people who worked, and that they should not be asked to pay. Gretchen agrees, but likes the idea that we have one event where we raise money for a charity on the mainland. Jenn observes we could do drive to raise donations – it doesn't have to be an *event*. Anna: agrees the donation at potluck at work party is a lot; perhaps we should make this just a 'welcome to summer' potluck. Perhaps the BBQ

fundraising could be in part (25%) an off-island charity donation. Discussion will be continued at a future meeting.

- Jenn notes that it would be nice to have the heritage society and PICA work parties further apart.

#### **Agenda Item: Island Website & Communications**

- Gretchen suggests that we should really have something we give to new people: a ‘things you should know’ document that could be broadly distributed, so that people could share it with guests as well. The summer student could do it up.
- Steve suggest the easiest thing to do might be a section on the website – acknowledging that it would take time and possibly grant funding, but that it would be great to have an up-to-date website, perhaps providing the option to sign up for emails. Suggests it could have sections for residents; new residents; visitors. Points out that people may not use FB or Insta; but everyone has email and access to a website. [Some discussion ensues about this.] Advocates being able to drive people to a simple, clear website.
- Jenn notes there is a large percentage of residents who do not read the PI emails.
- Gretchen points out we need to recognize there is a segment of population who don’t want to have rules and read a bunch of stuff.
- Amy briefly summarizes the history of the webpage: that it is hosted by PARL, and with this hosting we are limited to a select and not-very-customizable set of site templates. Agrees it would be great if we could talk to Linda & revisit this.
- Anna will check cost of web hosting elsewhere. She notes that time would be required to not only update but also maintain it.
- Sheila reports they are working to have PIHA page integrated as part of the PICA site.
- Jenn notes that PIFD required to have FB page to be able to participate in the 50/50 draw. She is also trying to post regularly on the PIHA Facebook page.
- Anna comments that the PI Facebook page is ‘liked’ by a lot of people... but should we have a PICA Facebook page, so we’re not broadcasting to thousands of people?
- Jenn notes ferry is doing announcements about all sorts of useful stuff – like the plane landing. Anne agrees that they’re doing an awesome job.
- Anna notes we will put out feelers for ‘how would you like to be informed’ in advance of August meeting. When updating email list “how would you like to receive information?” She suggests mass texts as a potential option, which she and Amy will look into.
- Motion to look into communication methods and web hosting options for next meeting:  
**Motion:** Myrna LeBlanc      **Seconded:** Anna LeBlanc  
All in favor, motion carried
- Anna & Amy will confer with Linda and look into hosting our own website; will provide updates on this at next meeting.

### **Harbour Authority Report** *(presented by Jenn Langille)*

- Successful pancake breakfast for PIFD! Still needs to collect outstanding e-transfer and balance costs against profits before providing total. Various attendees note what a great event it was, with Sheila commenting 'it felt like a fair!'
- HA intends to come over and provide quote for ice shields. SteelPro is making a template and providing anchors, so we will have template for what boom requires.
- There are 50 cookbooks left from 1<sup>st</sup> order, and have ordered another 250. There are some at Community Centre to sell, in storage room.
- Anne points out it's very worth appreciating how much work Jenn does, and what a driving force she is in this community!

### **Fire Department Report** *(presented by Jenn Langille)*

- There will not be an additional municipal funding increase this year – but last year's increase to \$16K will be maintained.
- Medical training:
  - PIFD will be taking in-person training this September, after 15hrs of self-guided training.
  - They have purchased 4-5 dummies at the recommendation of their trainer, and so will be able to practice all winter.
- PIFD does still need a stretcher, and hasn't had much luck sourcing that: they will likely have to just buy one.
- Need to order more smoke detectors. If anyone doesn't have one reach out to Jenn. Same with fire blankets (may need to do another order of those as well).
- Land has been purchased (behind CC) for building of new Fire Hall. Discussion is in process on where to put building to minimize cost of putting in driveway. Hope to start construction next year.
- Currently working on island evacuation plan.
- Last week's training was on the 'jaws of life.' Debra is a fantastic instructor and has so much real-world experience. It's incredibly valuable.
- Anna: Gary has offered to brushcut the Helicopter Pad: can we confirm its location – and does it need to be moved? Need to coordinate with the helicopter people.

### **Heritage Society Report** *(presented by Sheila Rankin)*

- Church interpretive panels are almost ready, as are those for the cemetery!
- Gary & Darryl have built and placed additional benches at the East End.

### **New Business**

- The potluck donations totalled about \$300: will need to be decided whether we are donating to a charity off-island, or contributing to stretcher purchase. Gretchen notes she hopes we don't lose sight of idea of donating to mainland charity. Jenn points out that Pictou West Food Bank is 'our' community food bank. Anna offers to help if in-person donation delivery is needed.
- Jenn: when the email goes out saying how much and where it goes to, asks that we include e-transfer info to donate if people didn't get a chance.

- Office Chairs at the C@P site are 'lousy' (Gretchen reports, to general agreement.) Anna confirms that if we see one for a reasonable price, we will purchase it.
- Anna asks: regarding future potential fundraising event – how do people feel about bingo event, with prizes? A very positive response is received!

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn: Joyce Halasz

Seconded: Gloria Fraser

Vote: all in favor, motion carried