

Meeting Date: May 17, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Prepared by: Anna LeBlanc, Amy Harding absent with regrets

Please submit proposed corrections or omissions to amy@hardingworks.org by **June 6th, 2025** (in advance of June PICA meeting).

In Attendance

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Anna LeBlanc, President

Bonnie Rankin, Vice-President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Anne Chaldecott

Ed George

Jenn Langille

Nancy MacDonald

General Membership

Rob Boudreau, Lee Cheverie, Wayne Cheverie, Cathy

Gibson, Dave Harding, Jevin Law, Mary-Anne

MacDonald, Gretchen Maguire, Dana Morin, Darrell

Rankin, Sheila Rankin, Dave Read

Call to Order, Approvals

President Anna LeBlanc calls meeting to order

- **Motion:** Gretchen Maguire **Seconded:** Nancy MacDonald
Vote: all in favor, motion carried

Agenda Item: Continuing Business - Updates

- Insurance:
- Over the winter, Amy renewed our insurance. Question at that time was, "Do we have adequate coverage?"
- Perhaps an opportunity to identify what our insurance needs are this summer and vote on them during higher populated meeting ahead of Fall 2025 renewal
- To be discussed in more detail at June 2025 meeting

- Municipality Wifi Access Project:
- Since switching towers, many have had much stronger connection
- It is also reported that the MOPC is investing in new equipment which should be ready by end of this year
- MOPC came and set people up May 9th, will be returning to set more people up as required throughout the season. Please contact the MOPC (<https://mopcnetwork.ca/>) for more details
 - Note from Anna: It seems June 3rd is their next trip over
- They have equipment in the Community Center, Anna to investigate when this will be removed
- Community Centre Solar and Plumbing Upgrades
- Over the winter, it was brought to the Board of Directors attention that the existing solar power system is not sufficient/up to date enough to run the water pump required to fill the fire trucks. This is obviously a huge safety concern. Over the winter, under the guidance of Amy Harding and Jenn Langille, we submitted a grant application to upgrade our solar system and install hot water on demand in the Community Centre.
- We are very excited to confirm we have received the funding asked for, \$15 488.00
- Work is expected to begin early this summer, we only found out about funding Thursday, May 15th so we will have more details to share by the next PICA meeting in June.

Agenda Item: 2025 Events Dates

As events come up throughout the summer, we will send reminders and additional info in advance

Event	Date
PICA Meeting	June 21 st
Work Party and Potluck	June 28 th
PICA Meeting	July 19 th
Church Concert – Darren and Rachel	July 19 th
Food Auction	July 26 th
Online Craft Auction	August 1 st – 8 th
Church's 115 th Anniversary Celebration	July 27 th
PICA Meeting	August 16 th
Park Picnic	August 16 th
Church Jam Session	August 16 th
PICA's AGM, BBQ and Kitchen Party	August 23 rd
PICA Meeting	September 20 th
PICA Meeting	October 18 th
PICA Meeting	November 15 th

Note: Junk Run dates are yet to be finalized but will be shared as soon as they are known, there will be an opportunity for Islanders to showcase junk (One man's trash is another man's treasure!) prior to the junk run

In addition to the PICA Events above please take note of the following events:

- **A Celebration of Life for Mary Rankin** will take place Friday, May 30th from 2-4pm at the New Horizon's Club in Pictou, please reach out to Gretchen Maguire with any questions
- **The Annual Washer Toss Tournament in Memory of Noah Russel** will take place on Pictou Island, August 2nd, please reach out to Emelyne and Matt Marshall for more details
- **Anna and Casey would like to host a "pop-up engagement party"** at the Dance Hall the evening of August 2nd to celebrate their engagement and mark "one year til they do!", please come dance and celebrate with us. Reach out to Anna LeBlanc with any questions

Agenda Item: Summer Students

- We are happy to say we've received funding for both our student positions this year!
- The Groundskeeper job will begin June 23rd and run for 8 weeks at \$16.50/hr, 35 hrs/wk
- The C@P Site job will begin June 30th and run for 8 weeks at \$16.50/hr, 35 hr/wk
- Jenn has agreed to assist Anna with overseeing the students
- Anna has prepared job descriptions and expectations for both positions, Amy will post them via the Pictou Island email by May 23rd with all applications to be submitted to pictouisland@gmail.com with annaleblanc2013@gmail.com cc'd no later than June 11th

Agenda Item: Church Updates

- The work on the exterior of the church was completed by Rob Boudreau Construction last fall. The Church Committee extends a very big thank you to Rob and his crew for completing this, the Church looks fantastic and ready to celebrate it's 115th anniversary this summer!
- As part of our celebrations, we will be having a concert featuring a Celtic duo, Darren and Rachel, on July 19th (ticket details to follow)
- We will celebrate the 115th anniversary of the Church on July 27th, details to follow
- The Church will host a Jam Session the evening of August 16th, all Island musicians are welcome to come and show off their skills with a tune or two!
- The Church is also researching a potential stand-up comedian after the ideal was well received at the PICA meeting, more details to follow
- Gretchen highlights the need for permanent lighting inside and outside the Church. There is much agreement on this, especially for the outside steps and ramp. There is some discussion on if power could be routed from the Community Centre to help with lighting inside.
 - Action: Church Committee to take this back and review, Anna to purchase solar lighting for steps and ramp in the meantime. The Church Committee will provide an update on this at the June 2025 meeting

Harbour Authority Report

- Jenn reports:
- Wharf power project almost complete and under budget as Small Craft Harbours (SCH) covered more than originally intended
- WiFi for First Responders installed at wharf
- While solar panels were being installed on recycling building roof, it was found the roof would need to be replaced, this is something PICA would have to look after

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- SCH will be coming over in July to replace ice shields and investigate loading dock repairs. SCH has also covered the engineering draws required for the boom project. Waiting to hear next steps
- The PIHA Cook Book is finally here! They would like to give special thanks to Maryanne MacDonald for her graphic design skills and editing over the winter and Sheila Rankin for the cover and back art. Cook books are \$25 and can be purchased at Hector Timber-Mart in Pictou and Stellarton, Maritime Tractor, or by reaching out to the Harbour Authority. All proceeds will go to the ongoing boom efforts
- **Parking Reminder:**
 - There is no free parking in the wharf lot. **Anyone wishing to park a vehicle at the wharf must pay the parking fee and display a permit.** Parking fees go toward the maintenance and repair of the ferry dock.
 - Parking for the year is \$60 and docking fees are \$125, this can be paid to Anne Chaldecott
- The Caribou Harbour Authority has approached PIHA with an opportunity to build a loading dock in Caribou. They are in the very early stages of this and it would likely be a collaborative effort between PIHA and PICA, more details to be shared as they are available

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Fire Department Report

- Jenn reports:
 - PIFD has purchased land behind the Community Centre with the goal to build a new, heated building for the fire trucks
 - First Aid kits have been delivered for anyone who had purchased one last Fall
 - Reminder on the importance of civic signs, if you had ordered one last year, please see Jenn to pick it up
 - Fire Department members and First Responders have been completing training continuously. A big thank you for their continued time and effort. If you feel you have an interest or skills that would aid in either of these areas, please reach out
 - A reminder to share PIFD's Facebook page and keep buying 50/50 tickets

Heritage Society Report

- Sheila reports:
 - They are working with Church Committee to create and install interpretive panels for Church and Pioneer Cemetery.
 - Lobsterfest will be held May 24th, 2025 with donations going to the PIHS
 - Tickets are being sold with a Sheila Rankin original as the winning prize, please reach out to a PIHS member for tickets
 - Planning to host card parties throughout the season, dates will be shared once finalized

Agenda Item: General Housekeeping

- Anna has reviewed and cleaned up the Phone List over the Winter, with it planned to be shared with the May minutes
 - If you see individuals not listed please take the time to confirm their contact information and send it to Anna (annaleblanc2013@gmail.com)

- Concerns were raised over the Fall and Winter on if Islanders would be able to continue parking in the parking lot at Caribou Wharf. It is confirmed this is federal land and we will be allowed to park there with no issue. If any NFL employee causes issues or says you are not allowed to park there, please let Bonnie Rankin know.

Agenda Item: New Business

- Lighting at the Church brings up the need for lighting at the Community Centre and Dance Hall outhouse. Jenn offers to purchase these lights.
- It is also brought up that the Community Centre needs an accessible ramp. There is discussion if the MOPC grant could assist with this
 - Anna to look into MOPC grant
- Ed George would like to share new PICA Treasurer email – picatreasurer1@gmail.com

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Gretchen Maguire Seconded: Sheila Rankin

Vote: all in favor, motion carried

Committees

Committee	Member(s)	Responsibilities	Notes
Church/Cemetery	Nancy MacDonald Myrna LeBlanc Anna LeBlanc Bonnie Rankin Sheila Tobin Sheila Rankin Scott MacEwan Cathy Gibson Kirby Veevers	Maintain Church and Cemetery Lead contact for Church events Manage Church/Cemetery funds Keep records of burials and plots	Responsible for separate bank account (Co-Treasurers Anna LeBlanc and Myrna LeBlanc)
Events	Gretchen Maguire	Lead and delegate event planning and prep as required	
Ferry	Peter Lauch AJ Law Geoff White	Act as main liaison between Ferry Operator, Province and PICA	
Garbage/Recycling	Aaron MacDonald	Lead recycling removal, organize junk runs	
Park	Susan MacCallum-Whitcomb Anne Chaldecott Susan Forsyth	Plan Park Picnic and events Ensure Park stays tidy and well kept	
Roads	Kay Langille	Act as main advocate for Island roads and their maintenance	
Students	Anna LeBlanc Casey O'Shea Jenn Langille	Act as liaison between summer students and PICA Point of contact for summer students Assign tasks and obtain supplies as needed	
Welcoming	Ashlynn Baird	Reach out to new Islanders and provide info	
Communication	Linda Schweitzer (with assistance from Amy Harding)	Main point of communication via pictouisland@gmail.com Send out emails to email list Update Facebook page as required	