

Meeting Date: May 23, 2026

Meeting Minutes

Prepared by: Amy Harding, Secretary

Please submit proposed corrections or omissions to amy@hardingworks.org within two weeks of minutes publication date.

In Attendance

Executive Committee

Anna LeBlanc, President

Amy Harding, Secretary

Board of Directors

Jenn Langille

Andrew LeBlanc

Nancy MacDonald

Cameron MacDonald

General Membership

Sheila Brand (*online*)

Gloria Frasier

Cathy Gibson (*online*)

Kay Langille

Paul Law

Myrna LeBlanc

Sarah MacDonald

Gretchen Maguire

Dave Read

Brenda Spence-McLeod

Call to Order, Approvals

President Anna LeBlanc calls meeting to order

Calls for motion to approve November 2025 Minutes

- **Motion:** Andrew LeBlanc **Seconded:** Nancy MacDonald
Vote: all in favour, motion carried

PICA Thank You's!

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.



May 2026: PICA Would Like to Thank...

- **Cathy Gibson**, for the quilt donated for Church fundraiser!
- **Aaron, Maryanne, & Ike** for digging the trench to run solar to the Church!
- **Travis, Lisa, Rob, & especially Sarah White**, for all of their help with 'Setting Day Breakfast' at the wharf!
- **Rob Boudreau** for the awesome new windows at the Community Centre!

- **Ed & Butch** for cleaning the snow off the Community Centre solar panels this winter, and **Ed, Stretch, & Butch** for getting the water running and keeping things running at the Community Centre!

Agenda Item: Summer Event Schedule

- Dates were set for this summer’s schedule of island events as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
May 30 th	Lobsterfest (PIHS Fundraiser)
June 10 th	Concert: The Devin Cuddy Band
June 20 th	Work Party Potluck
August 1 st	Anna & Casey's Wedding Party
August 8 th	Annual Food Auction (Fundraiser)
August 9 th -22 nd	Annual Craft Auction (Fundraiser) - online
August 15 th	Park Picnic Concert: Katherine McClellan
August 22 nd	PICA AGM & BBQ (by donation) Kitchen Party

- Events planned but still pending dates are the PIHS Work Party and Card Parties. Brenda Spence-McLeod will follow up with Amy once dates have been confirmed.
- Anna will reach out to Kirby to confirm Junk Run dates, requesting that one be a Sunday so that we can do an island-wide ‘curbside giveaway’ the day before.
- In addition to the published schedule of events, Myrna noted that on July 10th she will be hosting a ladies’ night at the cottage to celebrate Anna’s upcoming wedding.
- Schedule of events will be published & released by Amy this coming week; revisions will be published as events are confirmed and dates added.

Equipment Purchases

- Motion to purchase two coffee/tea urns for community centre kitchen use, pending Sarah White's equipment recommendations.
Motion: Brenda Spence-McLeod **Seconded:** Jenn Langille
Vote: all in favour, motion carried
- **Barbecue:** Purchase will perhaps be deferred to end of summer: though Anna asks that if anyone sees a great deal on a good-quality BBQ (e.g. Webber) after Father's Day that they reach out to her. Must be weatherproof, large enough for community events, and fit through building door for winter storage.
- **Dollar Store Supplies:** Gretchen authorized to stock community centre kitchen with basic supplies.

Ferry Committee Updates

- Gretchen reports that the ferry contract is up for renewal.

- The committee will prepare a questionnaire to solicit community input regarding ferry service, which will be distributed via the PICA email list.
- Nancy (& others) comment how much they like the recent change to a 'load and go' departure strategy from island side during May & June.

Infrastructure & Facilities Updates

Outhouse Project – East End

- Edmund confirmed availability for June 20th construction during meeting, allowing date of Work Party to be set
- Lease Agreement: Susan and Colin agreed to \$10 for 10-year lease (\$1/year) for new outhouse location on their property
- Location to be set back from road to comply with highway setback requirements
- Heritage Society option: potentially relocate existing stand outhouse behind church/cemetery if desired, though repairs needed to plug holes, etc.

MOPC Wi-Fi Infrastructure

- MOPC reports they expect new infrastructure 90% complete by end of May, definitely by June when summer students start
- Two technicians are expected to come to island in June, to switch all current users to new infrastructure and test tower connectivity for Community Centre access
- Anyone not on MOPC wifi who would like to be should reach out to them before June technicians visit.

Community Centre

- Painting scheduled for next weekend (pre-work party)
- Anna brought paint samples to solicit input after meeting
- Fire department equipment needs organizing before cleaning of Community Centre (during work party)

Church

- New motion-sensitive, battery-powered lights purchased by Andrew this week; he will install them

Grant Funding & Summer Employment

Grants Pending

- **Wheelchair Ramp Grant:** Application for community center deck ramp looks favorable per provincial contacts (Bonnie's internal research confirms); announcement expected next week

Grants Secured

- **Summer Student Grants:** Both positions approved at **\$17.25/hour, 35 hours/week**

Summer Student Positions

- **Start Date:** Tentatively last week of June (June 29-30), possibly July 6th week due to June 30th school end date
- **Hiring Process:** Cameron volunteered to oversee groundskeeping; Jenn will manage C@P intern. Nancy will assist in hiring process for both as needed.

- Applications require resume and email explaining interest; hiring announcement to be distributed via PI email list.
- **Groundskeeping Priorities discussed:**
 - Regular lawn mower maintenance (e.g. weekly deck cleaning) and equipment care
 - Magnet sweep required in front of Community Centre (following window replacement) before mowing

Heritage Society Report

- This year marks the 10th anniversary of PIHS's incorporation; small celebration planned (date & details TBD)
- Church and cemetery panels printed and ready for installation

Welcoming Committee Report

New Resident Onboarding

- Welcome materials in draft form provided to Patrick Marsh (newest resident who purchased Dean and Wendy Clark's property) for review and feedback
 - Awaiting Patrick's suggestions on missing information before finalizing for future use

Harbour Authority Report

Wharf Boom Status

- Originally planned system could not be used because it did not have governor. Have identified alternate Canadian vendor that can provide system costing approximately **\$11,000 plus tax**
- Trolley system enables full boom range use for lifting cargo off boats/barges
- Generator-powered; generator still requires wheeling out from storage
- Price includes inspection; only delivery cost remains

Financial Status

- Parking fee collection critical to pay Nathan and cover operational costs this summer: please pay your parking fees!
- Some cookbook fundraiser money still outstanding.
- Budget tight after boom system purchase (\$11,000+), but wharf's main expense now covered.
- **Aerosol Recycling Pilot:** Non-hazardous aerosol collection spot established at recycling building as test program before expanding to other recyclable categories

Fire Department Report

PIFD: Impact of New Provincial Legislation: Fire Protection Services Act

Please note: The following information is provided to the best of our understanding. On **June 7th at 2pm** there will be a meeting with Darla McFarland (our municipal counselor), and Evan (Director of EMO, Pictou County). Anyone with questions or concerns regarding impact of the new legislation – including mandatory community risk assessment and potential tax levy – **should plan to attend this meeting to have them addressed.**

_Nova Scotia has passed a new act, the **Fire Protection Services Act**, which:

- Requires that every Nova Scotian municipality conduct 'fire safety inspection' risk assessments of all communities within their jurisdiction. These assessments will be conducted by designated municipal inspectors.
- Community fire departments must meet requirements outlined in their risk assessment within 3 years, or face mandatory municipal ownership
- It is the opinion of the PIFD, as represented by Jenn Langille on 23/5/26, that PIFD does not hold assets adequate to cover the cost requirements likely to result from our risk assessment, and so will likely require municipal ownership and support to meet standards within 3-year window.
 - It is note this may not be a bad thing: with municipal ownership comes municipal funding, which will exceed the current annual municipal contribution to PIFD (\$6,000).
 - **However...** municipal funding cannot increase without a fire department levy being applied to property tax. For context:
 - Pictou Island is the *only* community in Pictou County not already paying this levy. Communities *do* have the option to reject the levy and refuse municipal assistance in meeting provincial fire-readiness requirements (e.g. fund the upgrades themselves). No community has chosen to go that route.
 - The *maximum* possible levy rate is 19.5 cents per \$100 of *assessed value* of property (annually). This means that for a property currently assessed at \$100,000, the annual tax levy would be \$195 (\$16.25/month). The application of a levy does *not* trigger reassessment of property values.
 - Application of the levy to our property taxes would entitle us to at least the minimum level of funding for fire services: \$45,000/year. (As compared to our current funding level of \$6,000.)
- Summary of Proposed Levy: by the Numbers

If the community votes to accept the levy it will cost landowners \$16.25/month for every \$100,000 of property they own (current assessed value). In return, the community will receive a minimum of \$45,000/year (potentially up to \$90,000/year) of funding for fire prevention services (equipment, training, vehicles, etc.).

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Kay Langille

Seconded: David Read

Vote: all in favour, motion carried