

**Meeting Date:** June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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  
Ed George, Treasurer  
Amy Harding, Secretary

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Anne Chaldecott  
Skip Hamilton (*online*)  
Nancy MacDonald

#### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Susan Forsyth (*online*)  
Bill Fraser (*online*)  
Gloria Fraser (*online*)  
David Harding  
Maureen Hull  
Jennifer Langille  
Kay Langille  
Andrew LeBlanc  
Myrna LeBlanc  
Aaron (Butch) MacDonald  
Gretchen Maguire  
Darryl Rankin  
Sheila Rankin  
Linda Schweitzer  
Brenda Spence-MacLeod

#### COMMUNITY ATTENDEES

Ashlynn Baird  
Cathy Gibbon  
Jeff Hamilton  
Casey O'Shea  
Petra Rankin

### Call to Order, Approvals

President Anna LeBlanc calls meeting to order

- Call for motion to approve minutes from May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting  
**Motion:** Gretchen Maguire     **Seconded:** Myrna LeBlanc  
**Vote:** motion passes without dissent, motion carried

### Agenda Item: Ferry Schedule

#### Committee Changes

- Linda S. reports on behalf of Peter Lauch that Peter will join Bill F. on the Ferry Committee.

#### Report & Background (Bill Fraser, Ferry Committee)

- Bill Fraser (head and sole member of Ferry Committee) received an email from Nicole Fleury of Pictou Island Charters regarding impacts to the schedule resulting from the service being provided by a mainland-based crew effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, requesting input from islanders.
  - Impact identified is the loss of the previously extant Monday 4pm departure from Caribou (the 'second half' of the officially scheduled Monday morning PI -> Caribou run).
  - See attached report and recommendation from Bill Fraser.
- Bill notes the following in his presentation of the issue:
  - PICA is not party to the ferry contract, which is between government and ferry operator. PICA can make known their wishes and submit recommendations.

- The island-based crew (Kirk & Susan) will step down at the end of June; the incoming crew is domiciled on the mainland. Consequently, the point of origin for ferry operations is changing to Caribou.
- Bill has received confirmation from John Majchrowicz that the government does not perceive the proposed changes to be in violation of the current contract.

#### Discussion

- Bonnie requests clarification on 2022 Monday afternoon service – was it actually an official run?
  - Ed explains that when negotiated, the idea was to get a Monday run off the island. The return was left to discretion of the ferry operator. It wasn't advertised, didn't appear on the website, and one could not make a reservation for it.
- Anne expresses concern at the idea of losing the Thursday midday run, and so the opportunity for a 'half-day' town day that avoids the high traffic of high-season Friday runs.
  - Gretchen observes that the planned schedule change to the Thursday run (due to change in point of origin) doesn't allow much time in town on a half-day trip.
  - Anne would like to see the half day lengthened in either the morning or afternoon.
- Jennifer asks for an update on the letters PICA planned to send (October, 2022) to Ryan Fleury & John Majchrowicz, noting that all items discussed in that meeting do not appear to have been addressed. Expresses concern that preceding letter to Ryan Fleury (June, 2022) did not receive a response. Amy reports that at discretion of head of Ferry Committee, one letter was sent (to Ryan, CC John), rather than sending separate letters to both. Jenn notes the communication problems with ferry operator appear to persist.

#### Motions & Amendments

**Motion:** That the Thursday midday run be maintained rather than adding a Monday afternoon run (Option 1 as proposed by Nicole), and that we request that either the morning boat be scheduled an hour earlier, or the afternoon boat an hour later (to allow those based on the island to be able to spend a half-day in town). Anne seconds motion.

**Proposed:** David Harding      **Seconded:** Anna LeBlanc

**First Amendment:** To request specifically that the Thursday afternoon boat run an hour later.

**Proposed:** Nancy MacDonald      **Seconded:** David Harding

**Vote:** 12 of 21 present in favor (Amy & Anna abstain), amendment passes.

[Discussion ensues about whether we should ask that morning or afternoon be made longer. Preference expressed by multiple parties for each option.]

**Second Amendment:** To request also that the Thursday morning boat run an hour earlier.

**Proposed:** Nancy MacDonald      **Seconded:** Linda Schweitzer

**Vote:** 14 of 19\* present in favor (Amy & Anna abstain), amendment passes.

\*Bill & Gloria Fraser no longer present due to preexisting commitment.

**Amended Motion:** That Nicole's proposed Option 1 (Monday morning run, no afternoon run) be accepted, and that in addition we request that the Thursday morning boat leave Caribou one hour earlier (7am rather than 8am) and that the Thursday afternoon run leave Caribou one hour later (6pm rather than 5pm).

Proposed: Anna LeBlanc      Seconded: Nancy MacDonald

Vote: 13 of 19 present in favor (Amy & Anna abstain). Motion passes.

- Bill Fraser will relay recommendations per above motion to Nicole Fleury of Pictou Island Charters on behalf of PICA.

#### **Agenda Item: Summer PICA Meeting Schedule**

- Ed has observed that the schedule set last fall includes an August 19<sup>th</sup> PICA meeting, which is only one week before the AGM, and proposes this is redundant. Anna suggests to attendees that this meeting be removed from the schedule; suggestion receives no dissent.
- Amy has requested that the standing time of PICA meetings be discussed. **11am** is proposed as an alternative time for future meetings.

Motion: Anna LeBlanc    Seconded: Amy Harding

Vote: all in favor, motion carried

#### **Agenda Item: Summer Job Updates**

##### Groundskeeping Job

- Amy reports that as of June 22<sup>nd</sup>, funding decisions have not yet been made by Canada Summer Jobs. Our program officer has advised Amy she will notify us as soon as the decision letter is received from the federal office.
  - Linda S. observes this delay may be a result of the federal strike.
  - Nancy suggests reaching out to Shawn Fraser about the delay in response. Amy will do so.
- In the interim, we have hired Hannah Fleury to mow, for 10hrs/week at \$15/hr.
- Discussion: Is 10hrs enough?
  - Anna says that based on her experience in that position, she thinks it is.
  - Andrew points out that as we are paying hourly we can flex a bit if we need additional time.

##### PARL Tech Position

- Anna reports that Casey O'Shea has been hired by PARL for the summer Tech position, and encourages people to send him suggestions.

#### **Agenda Item: Community Safety – Road Speed**

- Emelyn Marshall has expressed concern to PICA about traffic speed on the road and asked that we discuss.
- Discussion
  - While speed limits are set by the province, PICA can add signage to encourage safe driving limits (especially in areas where children are at play). Such a sign currently exists by Wendy's house. Rather than moving that sign, Bonnie will ask the municipality for an additional sign and ask Al MacDonald about installing it.
  - Myrna asks if there is anywhere else we should place a similar sign. Nancy suggests the road along Caitlin Banks' property.

- Anna will respond to Emelyn, let her know we are getting signs. She observes she can pick one up from Karla McFarlane.

#### **Agenda Item: West End – Project Status?**

- Lorne Matheson has requested that we look into the status of the work done at the West End, as there is currently no work being done there, but piles of fill that have not been leveled remain.
- Question of authority and who to contact: the plot has been divided, and only the lighthouse remains under the coastguard: the land where the dumping was done is now federal property.
- Jennifer heard that they had to leave it for a year or two to ‘breathe.’
- Andrew suggests that if that’s the case, we should make sure it’s not forgotten about. Palodis is the company that did the work.
- Amy/Anna will follow up with company regarding project status and report at next meeting.

#### **Agenda Item: Ratepayers Meeting Date**

- Anna will reach out to Darla to set a meeting date (July if possible).
- Bonnie suggests we might increase interest/attendance if the meeting took place on a ferry day. Anna will request a Thursday date.
- Anne points out that we will need to advertise this meeting a lot, as it is not generally well-attended.

#### **General Discussion**

- Linda S. mentions that Candi Langille emailed the Pictou Island Gmail asking about who mowed their lawn. Gretchen reports that Candi/Shawn asked Chris to do this, and will let Chris know they are asking.

#### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn: David Harding

Seconded: Myrna LeBlanc

Vote: all in favor, motion carried

## **Ferry Committee Report**

### **For Review, PICA June Meeting: 24/6/23**

Submitted by: Bill Fraser

Release date: 19/6/23

As I expect many of you will have anticipated, beginning July 1, the ferry runs will originate from Caribou. The reason is simple..... the summer staff that will be operating the ferry don't live on the island, unlike past circumstances.

You also may have noticed that a revised schedule reflecting this change has been posted on the Pictou Island Charter website.

You will also recall that for the last couple of years, a Monday morning run from Pictou Island was added to the schedule in July and August to relieve the Sunday afternoon off- island traffic. That ferry returned to the island late Monday afternoon. This constituted a single run.

With the ferry now based in Caribou, the operator has offered the following options:

1. Monday- depart Caribou at 7 am; depart Pictou Island at 8 am
2. Monday- depart Caribou- at 7 am; depart Pictou Island at 8 am  
Remove Thursday lunch run to add a Monday afternoon run departing Caribou at 16:00; departing Pictou Island at 17:00.

Here are the passenger counts for the 2022:

1. Thursday midday from Caribou- 154
2. Thursday midday from Pictou Island-133
3. Monday afternoon from Caribou- 116
4. Monday afternoon from Pictou Island- 109

Based on the past passenger traffic, it is my recommendation that we go with Option 1:

Monday- depart Caribou at 7 am; depart Pictou Island at 8 am eliminating the Monday afternoon run.

Bill Fraser