

Meeting Date: October 25th, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Prepared by: Anna LeBlanc and Bonnie Rankin

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

In Attendance

Executive Committee

Anna LeBlanc, President
Bonnie Rankin, VP

General Membership

Joyce Halasz	Gretchen Maguire
Myrna LeBlanc	Lauranne Matheson
Sarah MacDonald	Alison Proteau
Maryanne MacDonald	Brenda Spence-MacLeod

Board of Directors

Jenn Langille
Andrew LeBlanc
Nancy MacDonald

Call to Order, Approvals

President Anna LeBlanc calls meeting to order. Minutes for September can't be approved as they have not been distributed yet (error on Anna's part!), September and October minutes will be approved at the November meeting

PICA Thank You!

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.



October Thank-Yous

- Thank you to Colin and Rob for transporting the Community Center's new windows to Pictou Island
- Thank you to Ruth for donating the beautiful new table at the Community Center
- PIFD would like to thank Deborah Chute for her First Responder training sessions
- Thank you to Joyce Halasz for providing roadside veggies!

Agenda Item: Continuing Business - Updates

Grant Funding & Funded Projects:

- Municipal services grant (\$4,900): hope is to use toward Community Centre upgrades (window replacement): we have the cheque and the windows! Next step is to install.
- Federal Accessibility Grant: The application has been submitted and we have been told we'll hear back Winter 2026. If we do not receive funding from the federal government, we will apply to the provincial accessibility grants.

Insurance

- No further updates at this time, Colin Whitcomb and Anna have been in contact with our broker, we're waiting for a quote and will then share that with the Board of Directors for discussion.

Website

- Amy anticipates dedicating a chunk of time to this after November 9th. Anna has offered to assist where needed. Update to be provided at the November meeting.

Agenda Item: Caribou Terminal Parking

- Jenn received phone call from Caribou Harbour Authority President, Dave MacCarthy, that he was informed by a NFL employee that Pictou Islanders and Caribou fishermen would no longer be able to park at the Caribou Terminal
- Bonnie has reached out to NFL and confirmed that while there is no immediate concern and the individual shouldn't have said that, with the NFL ferries' fee reduced, they are seeing more traffic and increased use. There is also increased use from Pictou Island as well. To help combat this in the meantime, please be mindful of parking large vehicles or trailers for prolonged periods of time. NFL also highlighted there was also prolonged use of the accessible parking lots and while they cannot confirm whether or not it was us, a gentle reminder to please be mindful.
- NFL also mentioned expanding the parking lot. Bonnie will be receiving the contact for someone at Transport Canada to understand more. Dave MacCarthy also highlighted to Jenn that there may be an opportunity to create parking specifically for Caribou Wharf. More to come once we understand NFL and Transport Canada's plans. In the meantime, if you face any grief parking at Caribou, please let us know

Agenda Item: Painting Proposal

- Anna and Casey are planning to use the Community Center for their wedding next summer and were curious if folks would be opposed to them painting the inside of the Community Center ahead of this provided they provide paint and labour.
- This is well received, Brenda offers to cans of Benejamin Moore Palladium Blue and there is offers to come help paint as well. Andrew will investigate the missing ceiling tiles.
- **Motion:** Let Anna and Casey paint the inside of the Community Center ahead of August 1st
- **Made by:** Bonnie Rankin **Seconded:** Alison Proteau
- **Vote:** All in favour, motion carried

Agenda Item: Closing Duties

- Paint has already been stored in Community Center basement, we need to go through the cans to determine what is still good. If someone identifies cans that can be removed, Gretchen will take them to the mainland. Maryanne also notes she donated three cans of stain for the picnic tables.
- Lawnmower: Gretchen volunteers Chris to winterize the lawnmower
- Church: Nancy will ensure Church is ready for winter
- Community Center water: PIFD will turn water off before freezing temps

Heritage Society Report

- Brenda reports:
 - No major updates, Joyce reports Brenda has ordered new blinds that will help protect the Heritage Builds from winter UV rays and they will be installed ahead of this winter.

Harbour Authority Report

- Jenn reports:
 - Boom is potentially to be installed Thursday, October 30th. Depends on truck in town, facing difficulties there. Colin and Jevan will be helping. Stretch to install power pack. Majority of pieces ready to go and then Steel Pro will come certify it.

Fire Department Report

- Jenn reports:
 - Ongoing First Responder training with Deborah chute. PERC test done for the new Fire Department, Jevan to build road. It is an estimated \$20K to build the base for the building, currently have \$8K raised.

Food Producers Report

- Joyce reports:
 - They are investigating interest in a community garden. This would involve small plots, helping with fencing, watering, etc. This is well received at the meeting. Anna will send out an email asking for wider interest and share this with the PloFP.

Agenda Item: New Business

- Recycling Building
 - Maryanne reports the recycling run has been completed and the Recycling Building is clear for winter.
- Church and Graveyard Plots Update

- o Nancy reports the Church and Cemetery Committee met last month to review the Graveyard Plots and Church rental fee. It has been decided a plot in the Church Graveyard will be 12' x 8' and cost \$500. When purchasing a plot, you will receive a map indicating where your plot is and your contact information and next of kin information will be recorded. They are currently working on developing the plot map and will be ready to assign plots once complete. In terms of Church rental, it has been discussed by the committee that there would be no charge for Islanders to use the church. If someone from the mainland would like to use the Church, they will be asked to give a donation and be provided with examples of donations in the past based off similar events. Anna and Nancy are the primary contacts for the Church, if you would like to use the Church, please reach out! We'd love to see it used!
- Dance Hall
 - o Jenn asks about the door of the Dance Hall. Steve and Kathy Smith have donated a steel door but Jenn isn't sure if there's any traction on installing it. Discussion follows and there is concern a steel door would impact the look of the Dance Hall which was built in the 1930's. There is some concern the steel door and jam might lead to more issues. Bonni
 - o **Motion:** Repair or replace the existing door to maintain its current appearance
 - o **Made by:** Bonnie Rankin **Seconded:** Maryanne MacDonald
 - o **Vote:** All in favour, motion carried
 - o Bonnie also highlights the floor of the Dance Hall in the upper North-West corner was a little spongy. Nancy notes her and Al had shored up the floor before but that would be over thirty years ago now. We will need someone to go under to look or to remove the floor board from above. Colin is recommended, Andrew offers to look as well. More to come.
- Donated Steel Door
 - o The question is then raised what do we do with this steel door? Rob and Jenn bought a door jam just in case, we could potentially buy this off them or look into finding another one. Discussion follows about using it for the Community Center to go with our new windows. We will ask Rob via Jenn to investigate the possibility of this.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Brenda Spence-MacLeod **Seconded:** Nancy MacDonald

Vote: All in favour, motion carried