



**Meeting Date:** February 7, 2026

**Optional Winter Check-In** (*online*)

Meeting Minutes

*Prepared by: Amy Harding, Secretary*

Please submit proposed corrections or omissions to [amy@hardingworks.org](mailto:amy@hardingworks.org) within two weeks of minutes publication date.

### **In Attendance**

#### **Executive Committee**

Anna LeBlanc, President  
Ed George, Treasurer  
Amy Harding, Secretary

#### **General Membership**

Rob Boudreau  
Cathy Gibson  
Scott McEwan

#### **Board of Directors**

Anne Chaldecott  
Jenn Langille  
Nancy MacDonald  
Cameron MacDonald  
Linda Schweitzer

### **Call to Order, Approvals**

President Anna LeBlanc calls meeting to order

Notes that as this is an 'optional check-in,' it will be an informal meeting.

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

#### Insurance:

- Completed per Andrea. Anna signed policy in early December. Ed notes that the invoice is still pending: Anna will follow up with our insurer.
- The fact that we have liability under the new policy means we do not need NS Rec insurance this year.
- Anne checked harbour insurance policy: does not cover buildings at the wharf. (The baby barn next to PIGS building is owned by harbour authority.) The HA policy is mostly for liability.
  - PIGS is covered under new PICA policy.
  - We have to have the HA policy.

#### Grants:

- Melanie at PARL is working on the @CAP student grant: we don't usually hear about award of this grant until May.
- Amy submitted the application for our groundskeeper grant in November: this year, the government will begin notifying grant applicants in April.

- MOOC grant for window refresh: Anna has applied for extension. While we now don't have to submit final documentation until Jan of 2027, the sooner the better. Extension doesn't affect our funding.
  - Rob has the windows, hopes to get to them in the next month or so, but depends upon whether emergency projects on island need to be taken care of. Anna notes that since we were hoping they would be in by May, this is still way ahead of 'schedule.'
- Our Federal Accessibility grant application (for Community Centre ramp) was declined. Anna has reached out to MOPC to see if they have accessibility funding ideas.
- PIFD is working on a grant application from the Sutherland Memorial foundation, for healthcare initiatives that benefit Pictou West. Deadline is in early March, but the Foundation has a bit of funding left from this fiscal year and recommended that application be submitted ASAP. PIFD is exploring ideas for what PIFD could use that is healthcare related. The request will include a stretcher, and potentially medical supplies for the ambulance. PIFD is currently working on first responder individual kits for first responders – but that may not fall under this grant.
  - Jenn notes that some medications need to be climate controlled, but not fridge temperature (e.g. epi-pens): there is some challenge in figuring out how to accomplish this.
  - Emmelyn is working on recommendations for a medication package that PIFD might reasonably want and have.
- PICA welcomes suggestions for additional funding opportunities that may benefit the community. Any such suggestions can be submitted to Anna or Amy.

#### WiFi at Community Centre

- Jenn spoke with MOPC: new tech has been installed on two towers; their goal is to have all towers updated with this new technology by July 2026. MOPC is hopeful that this will improve our ability to connect.
  - MOPC towers include: Barney's River, Merigomish, Greenhill.
  - The TNC tower in Caribou River is being decommissioned.
- One of the reasons WiFi at Community Centre is of import is the inverters located there. Software updates for the inverters have been released, and installing these updates requires an internet connection. The current internet service at Community Center is not strong enough to make that possible. If MOPC service upgrades do not resolve this issue, we may have to explore an alternate service option like Starlink.
- Amy asks: would the signal strength be helped if we put up a receiving tower? General assent – and Ed notes that we still have the beam for the church, which is 40'-50' long and could in theory be affixed to the building.

#### **Agenda Item: Lighting Considerations on Community Property**

- Anna is keeping a list of lights needed on community property (e.g. public building stairs & outhouses are lit).
- Motion lights for Community Centre's front & back door are proposed.
- A motion light for east end outhouse is suggested, along with adding some lighting inside.
- It is noted that the Dance Hall outhouse only has lighting when the generator is running.

- If anyone else thinks of other areas that should have lighting: let Anna know & she'll add it to the list. Anna will order so they can be installed at work party, at latest.
- Anna will send table of light needs to Amy, to include in meeting notes.

## **Committee Updates**

### Church/Cemetery Committee

- Rob reports that the cemetery gate came down – the legs are on mainland getting reinforced.
- There is a concert in works for August 15th: musical guest, Katherine McClellan. Nancy is thankful to Susan for arranging this tentative booking.
- Nancy suggests the idea of scheduling the concert in the late afternoon, explaining that if it took place ~4pm-6pm, it would potentially draw a larger audience.
- The committee is working on a quilt raffle, with a plan to draw the winning ticket at the AGM.
- Nancy thanks Cathy for the quilt!
- Cemetery plots: Nancy & Anna will connect offline regarding the plot map. Throughout May they will work on finalizing the map, aiming to be ready to sell plots in June.
- Ed asks if there has there been any discussion of putting in a columbarium for ashes. Nancy suggests we formalize the grid first, then discuss whether perhaps the ground directly behind the church could be a location for something like that.

### Park Committee

- Main focus this year is getting the cairn rebuilt. Then perhaps having a little perennial garden next to it, and lobster band holders/collectors.
  - Anna comments there was an artist in residence at the DeCoste Centre who makes tapestry out of these – it could be neat to have an art installation down there.
- Anna notes we shouldn't lose sight of having an accessible outhouse at the East End, like the that at the Community Centre (added to April meeting discussion points list).

### Dance Hall

- Colin hasn't been under the structure to assess yet, and probably won't be until the spring. Rob & Jeven think there's a beam or joist down, and that the issue might be resolved by some shoring up under the soft spot in front of the stage.

### Recycling

- Jenn talked to Butch & Maryanne about the new rules that are changing how things are recycled. They will brainstorm on what should happen. Noted that a separate place for batteries and aerosols would be helpful, as they have to be returned separately.

### Welcome Committee

- The Committee is working on a binder. This will include a section about recycling; but also a page or so about the general rules in NS (because they are different for CFAs).
- The binder will also include basic information for newcomers about things like solar system maintenance, battery upkeep, etc. This will be accompanied by a liability disclaimer ('these are just tips; we are not responsible for your system.')

- Binder will also include information on how to join PICA/PIHA/PIFD/etc – who to contact.

### **Fire Department Report**

- Details of PIFD's pursuit of funding opportunities covered in "Continuing Business – Updates: Grants" section of this document.
- Jenn reports:
  - PIFD has determined the parameters for their new building. Matt's mother is willing to draw it, but can't sign off on it as Engineer of Record. PIFD is working to find out if they can use the basic drawing as a reference point for fundraising initiatives.
  - Ground is under early preparation: some trees have been taken down by Stretch & Deborah. Jeven has started dumping loads to build the driveway.
  - Anna asks who owns trailer: confirmed is owned by PIFD.

### **Harbour Authority Report**

- NSHA representatives visited late in the fall to do surveying and assess dredging. When Jenn last talked to Emily a couple of weeks ago, NSHA had not yet received report from the surveyors.
- The mouth of the wharf is getting really shallow: that is on their radar. They found a missing ice shield (12' from east wharf) while they were over.
- Jenn has requested signage for Factory Road, warning people that they should expect two-way traffic.

### **Agenda Item: New Business**

- **Items for discussion during April meeting**
  - Ed proposes discussing the Ferry times for May & June, proposing that the time go to quarter hour on the island side (e.g. once the boat has been unloaded, the ferry can depart for the mainland). Ed has suggested this to Kirby, and reports that Kirby is willing to make this adjustment.
    - Suggested that if this implemented, it would be wise to note on the website that the ferry leaves the island on the quarter hour.
    - Confirmed that this proposal applies only to runs departing the island side.
    - Requested that this discussion point be noted in the email announcing the April meeting.
  - Because of timing of Labour Day this year, it is proposed that we have the Kitchen Party & AGM on August 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Potentially having a new (accessible) outhouse built at the East End, following the model used to erect the one at the Community Centre. Nancy notes that having Edmund prefab the structure, and then assembling it at the work party, was phenomenal. Ed points out that the cost did not exceed \$2,000 for that structure.