

December 1, 2025

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building on Monday, December 1, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Dist:

- 1 Clr. Joe MacDonald
- 2 Clr. Deborah Wadden
- 3 Clr. Darla MacKeil
- 4 Clr. Ronald Baillie
- 5 Deputy Warden Wayne Murray
- 6 Warden Robert Parker
- 7 Clr. Donald Parker
- 8 Clr. Larry Turner
- 9 Clr. Peter Boyles
- 11 Clr. Andy Thompson
- 12 Clr. Chester Dewar

**ABSENT**

10 Clr. Randy Palmer  
Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Services

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Brian Cullen, CAO Municipal Clerk-Treasurer  
Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer  
Sueann Musick, Director of Corporate Services  
Logan McDowell, Director of Public Works & Development  
Rhiannon McNair, Director of Operations, Broadband Initiative  
Adam MacInnis, Communications Officer  
Shellie Pettipas, Administrative Assistant

**CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Warden Parker called the meeting to order and invited Councillors to pray or reflect, as may be their preference, to help Council focus and properly do the work of the Municipality and to remember our Indigenous communities. He acknowledges that we are on the ancestral territorial lands of the Mikmaqi people and would like to thank the Mikmaqi people today for their ancestors sharing these precious lands with all our ancestors, whether they arrived here 400 years ago or four years ago. May we all live in peace and harmony together.

Warden Parker acknowledged that Saturday, December 6, 2025 is The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. The Warden noted that this will be the 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragedy where 14 young women lost their lives.

## **AGENDA**

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. Turner that the agenda be approved as presented. **Motion Carried**

## **EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS**

Clr. Parker was contacted from Clr. Jim McKenna, Town of New Glasgow regarding the homeless situation and the recent burning on the Pioneer Trail Bridge. Clr. Parker said that the issue is coming to a head and requested that Council have a discussion on the issue.

Warden Parker indicated that this discussion should go on a regular meeting agenda unless there is a reason it must be dealt with ahead of the next meeting. Warden Parker noted that a study is being down regarding the six municipal units and how to better share the load of the situation in the county. Warden Parker noted that the study should be released before Christmas and there is a meeting scheduled for Wednesday between the board and the town and this discussion would be better suited when more information is available.

## **ERRORS AND OMISSIONS/CORRECTION OF MINUTES**

Warden Parker asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the minutes for the November 3, 2025, Council Meeting. The minutes of the November 3, 2025, Council Meeting were reviewed by the Municipal Council. Warden Parker proclaimed the minutes of the meeting of November 3, 2025, as the official record of the meeting.

Warden Parker asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the minutes for the November 3, 2025, In-Camera Meeting. The minutes of the November 3, 2025, In-Camera Meeting were reviewed by the Municipal Council. Warden Parker proclaimed the minutes of the In-Camera meeting of November 3, 2025, as the official record of the meeting.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Thank you from Thorburn Consolidated, Pictou Academy, Dr. W.A. MacLeod and Walter Duggan Consolidated Schools for donations to their Breakfast and Backpack programs.

## **PRESENTATION** **DISTRICT 4 DREAMERY GARDENS PROJECTS**

Ms. Sheree Fitch addressed Council to propose the vision of creating the Dreamery Garden Sanctuary by gifting 30 acres to the community.

Ms. Sheree Fitch is a resident of District 4 and owns 147 acres in the community. Ms. Fitch addressed Council with the vision of creating The Dreamery Gardens Sanctuary by gifting 30 acres to the community. Ms. Fitch noted that the idea came from listening to members of the community about what people got from the Dreamery. Following the closure of the store, people continued to come and communicated the importance to the community.

Ms. Fitch is a believer in cultural tourism and noted that Mabel Murple's Dreamery brought in 8,000 people in a 9-week season each year. The garden offers unique programming and offers meaningful wellness space.

Ms. Fitch said that a team of individuals with professional expertise has been supporting this initiative. The request from Ms. Fitch to Council was for support and openness in exploring this collaboration and to walk alongside for the beginning of phase 2 of the project.

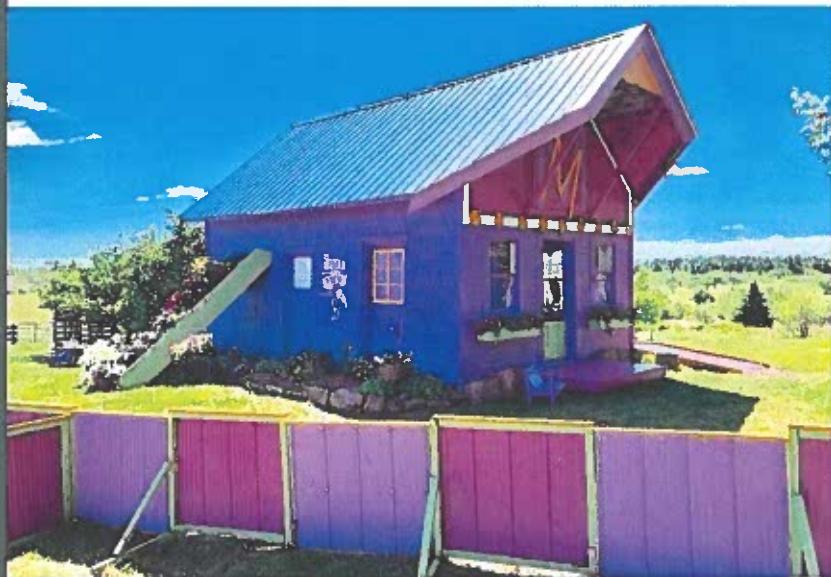


## The Dreamery Gardens Sanctuary:

A community space for  
imagination, learning & well-being

## What are the Dreamery Gardens ?

- A place where stories sprout, imagination grows, and memories bloom
- Rooted in the history of River John



## A Vision Rooted in Community

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- A free, interactive outdoor sanctuary blending nature, creativity, learning, and well being.
- Designed for families and all ages.
- A gift to the future—supporting healing, joy, and community connection.

# Four Pillars of the Dreamery Gardens

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- **Learn** – Outdoor classrooms & storytelling spaces
- **Create** – Community art & creative residencies
- **Connect** – Intergenerational gatherings & celebrations
- **Remember** – Labyrinths & places of reflection

## Benefits to Pictou County

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- Cultural tourism
- Literacy & youth programming
- Wellness & community connection
- Rural revitalization

## Ask from council

We are asking for support for the Dreamery Gardens Sanctuary as a community wellness, literacy, and nature project - including openness to exploring a future charitable structure and collaborating on signage, insurance guidance, and community access planning.



## Sustaining The Dreamery Gardens

**Projections: \$14,200**

	Monthly	Yearly	Timeframe
Ground Maintenance	\$1,000.00	\$5,000.00	May - Sept
Building maintenance	\$1,000.00	\$5,000.00	May - Sept
Property and Liability Insurance	\$250.00	\$3,000.00	All year
Utilities	\$100.00	\$1,200.00	All year

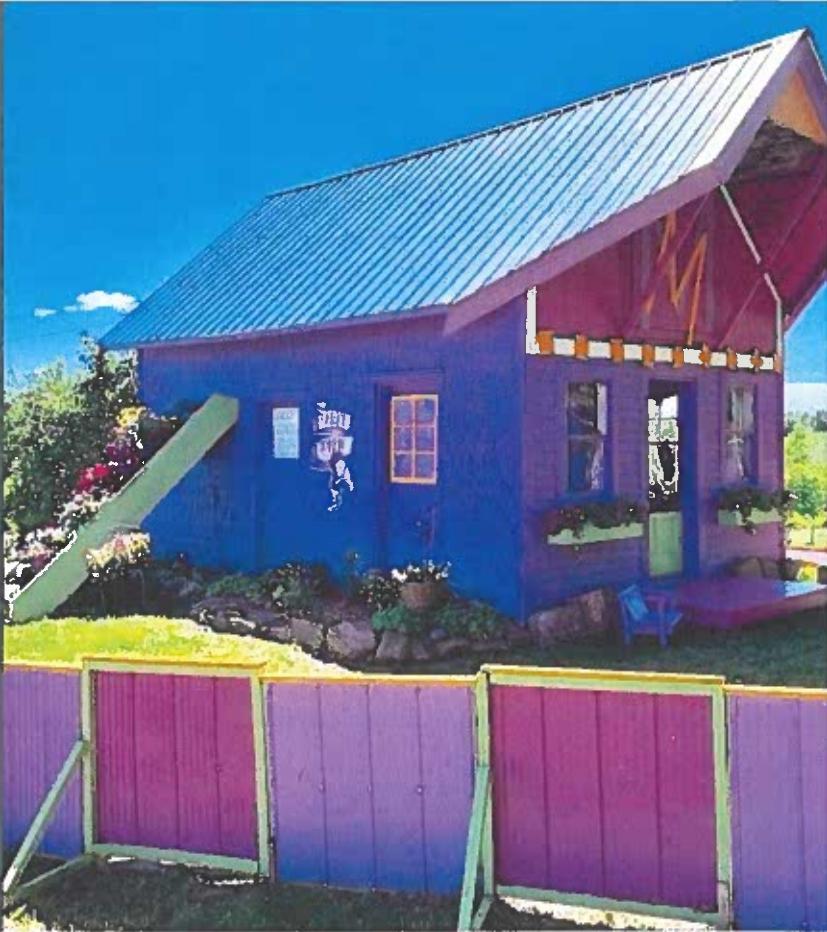
**Up front costs: \$7,500**

Exterior painting	\$5,000.00
Signage	\$2,500.00

## Thank You

We look forward to walking this path together.

Questions welcome.



Warden Parker thanked Ms. Fitch for the presentation and said that it is great to have these type of places within communities.

Clr. Boyles questioned what would happen if down the road this project did not continue, and whether the land would be returned to Ms. Fitch. Ms. Fitch indicated that the desire to ensure the project is sustainable. Ms. Fitch has done a lot of exploration and noted that the project will take a lot of people that are open to unique collaboration. Clr. Boyles wished Ms. Fitch luck with the Dreamery project.

Clr. Baillie noted that the land would be donated to a non-profit organization and that Ms. Fitch has no aspirations on the land being given back. Clr. Baillie said that Ms. Fitch is very well known and feels that once things get going in phase two that the donations will start coming in.

Clr. Baillie extended congratulations to Ms. Fitch on receiving the Matt Cohen Writer's Award as well as the Order of Canada most recently received. Deputy Warden Murray initiated a round of applause for Ms. Fitch on these great accomplishments.

Ms. Fitch expressed that this project would honour everything that Ms. Fitch's late husband has given to the community.

Warden Parker stated that good news stories are needed and Ms. Fitch presented a good one to Council.

### **BUSINESS ITEMS NOT REQUIRING ACTION**

### **NEW SCOTLAND BUSINESS PARK REPORT**

The New Scotland Business Park Report was received as presented.

### **BUSINESS ITEMS OR ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION**

### **FIRST READING OF SEWER BYLAW**

#### **MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. Parker and seconded by Clr. Baillie to approve the first reading of the following adopted Municipal Sewer Bylaw. **Motion Carried**



#### **RESOLUTION** **First Reading**

**TAKE NOTICE** that the following by-law will be presented to Council for second reading on January 12, 2026.

**BE IT RESOLVED** the Municipality of the County of Pictou adopt the following Municipal Sewer Bylaw.

**DATED** at Pictou, N.S. this 1st day of December 2025.

(Sgd.) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Motion Carried**  
**Clr. Donald Parker**  
**Clr. Ronald Baillie**

## TAX WRITE OFF FOR 589 JOHN MUNROE ROAD

### **MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. MacDonald and seconded by Clr. Wadden to approve the following tax write-off for the Antigonish Sno-Dogs Snowmobile Association; Account #10779278, located at 589 John Munroe Road.

**Motion Carried**



### **RESOLUTION**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipality of the County of Pictou approve the following tax write off, the same having been reviewed and approved by the Financial Services Committee:

#### **ACCOUNTS NOW ASSESSED AS EXEMPT PROVINCIAL PROPERTY**

<b>Account #</b>	<b>Account Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
10779278	Antigonish Sno-Dogs Snowmobile Assoc. 589 John Munroe Road Lot 17-1 Marshy Hope, NS	\$136.29

**DATED** at Pictou, N.S. this 1st day of December 2025.

Sgn \_\_\_\_\_

**Motion Carried**  
**Clr. Joe MacDonald**  
**Clr. Deborah Wadden**

## FCM CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

The FCM Conference will be held in Edmonton, Alberta from June 4-7, 2026. Four Councillors plus the Warden can attend the conference.

The following Councillors requested to attend the FCM conference:

1. Clr. Randy Palmer
2. Clr. Ronnie Baillie

3. Cllr. Deborah Wadden
4. Cllr. Joe MacDonald
5. Cllr. Larry Turner
6. Cllr. Andy Thompson

A draw will be held at the December 15, 2025 at the Property and Financial Services meeting to select attendees to the conference.

### **MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS – STRATEGIC PLANNING AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST WORKSHOP**

Clr. Wadden stated that the Municipal Affairs offered to do a session around strategic planning and conflict of interest. Cllr. Wadden expressed that a strategic planning session would be beneficial for Council to have prior to the January meeting on planning.

Clr. Wadden noted that there is so much information and the rules around conflict of interest are always changing rules. Cllr. Wadden that both are good workshops and would be good learning experiences. Cllr. Wadden expressed that this could potentially be scheduled as a Committee of the Whole meeting.

Warden Parker noted that there had been discussion on having a session in January around goal setting. Warden Parker said that Council is one year into the four-year term and the workshops would tie in with discussion around the main goals that Council wishes to accomplish.

Warden Parker noted that the potential date discussed was Monday, January 6, 2026. CAO Cullen stated that the date would need to be confirmed with Municipal Affairs. Cllr. Wadden and Warden Parker agreed that it would be better to have the sessions held as separate meetings.

### **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

There was no deferred business.

### **MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION**

There were no motions of reconsideration.

### **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Community Announcements were given.

### **IN-CAMERA**

### **MOTION**

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. Turner to go to an In-Camera session. **Motion Carried**

**MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. MacKeil to return to regular session. **Motion Carried**

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Warden Parker declared the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

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WARDEN

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MUNICIPAL CLERK