

Appointment of Picton Town Hall Board of Management

PICTON (ON) – On June 25th, Council established the Picton Town Hall Board of Management and appointed five community members and one Councillor. On July 8th, the Board held its inaugural meeting, elected its officers and began its work. Members of the SPTH-Working Group were in attendance to signal their ongoing supportive role.

Picton Town Hall Board of Management

Chairperson – Elis Ziegler

Vice Chairperson – Rebecca Sweetman

Secretary – Leslie Smail-Persaud

Treasurer – Michael Smith

Additional Board Members include: Kathy Kennedy and Phil St. Jean (Council Representative).

Chairperson, Elis Ziegler “is pleased and excited to be working with such a dedicated volunteer group representing all of Prince Edward County. The skill set and knowledge within this group is incredible. I also want to thank the devoted group of volunteer community members who served as the “Save Picton Town Hall Working Group” and contributed thousands of hours of their time during the past 18 months to convince Council Members to give the community a chance to prove that this beautiful public asset deserves to remain in the hands of its citizens. This group will remain as an “advisory group” to the Board of Management during the transition period.”

“We have a lot of work to do over the next 18 months and look forward to engaging with the current users and the community as a whole to fill the hall with events, clubs and programs and activities, and even a farmer’s market. We have begun the task of creating sub-committees and will soon be reaching out to the many volunteers who were willing to help with the task of ensuring that the town hall remains a space for current users as well as contributing ideas for lower level and outdoor uses”.

The Picton Town Hall is owned by the Municipality and will be run by the Board of Management toward full sustainability on behalf of the community going forward.

Bios

Elis Ziegler

Elis, a Milford resident, has over 30 years of community-based non-profit management experience in Hastings Prince Edward, Northumberland and Toronto. Along with board membership with the PEC Affordable Housing Corporation and South Marysburgh Recreation Board, Elis is committed to maximizing engagement with residents toward successful and innovative organizations serving The County.”

Rebecca Sweetman

Raised in The County, Rebecca Sweetman is cofounder of Hawkridge Homestead, a local organic permaculture farm, and has been advocating for an authentic farmers' market in Picton for the last three years. With a background in multimedia activism and non-profit governance, Rebecca has worked with over 120 grassroots social and environmental justice organizations around the world, and presently works at Queen's University as a multimedia analyst for the Faculty of Arts and Science. She is passionate about collaborating for a sustainable and equitable future.

Leslie Smail-Persaud

Leslie and her family live in Picton. Executive Administration, Communications, People Services and Organizational Effectiveness have been the emphasis of her career. Leslie possesses practical knowledge of corporate business operations both in profit and non-profit organizations and is a creative and innovative thinker with strong project planning, analytical and organizational skills. She is also a strong supporter of keeping public spaces in the hands of the community, understands the benefits associated with having public spaces and wants to see our town hall become a space that all community members can be proud of.

Michael Smith

Michael Smith is a retired Carleton University Professor, Departmental Chair and Dean. He is experienced in strategic planning, financial management, communications, and has served on a number of boards. He was Board Chair of The Recreation Outreach Centre for seven years. He was involved in the establishment of the Prince Edward County Youth Centre, at 299 Main Street, Picton, and with the construction of the Reading Room for County Kids Read. He believes that public spaces embody the sense that community is not simply a concept but a living reality.

Kathy Kennedy

Kathy Kennedy is the Executive Director of Prince Edward Learning Centre, where she is inspired every day by adults pursuing employment and education upgrading. She herself learned a lot about the County in her years connected to tourism development, as Executive Director of Taste the County, PEC's destination marketing organization, and as the co-owner of the Devonshire Inn on the Lake. She loves heritage buildings, community development, and the courage and grit exhibited by local entrepreneurs. She has a Masters in Economic Development from Dalhousie University, and a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Acadia University.

Phil St. Jean (Council Representative)

Phil St-Jean is the council representative from Picton Ward on the board. He is a lifelong resident of Prince Edward County. Phil brings 15 years' experience as a self-employed residential and commercial building contractor to the group. Phil also has many years' experience working with service organizations in the county and understands the challenges faced by not for profit volunteer driven organizations. "I look forward to assisting the PTH Board of Management however I can to achieve their goal of a self-sustaining, community operated hall for all."

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For more information about the Picton Town Hall please visit the following website:
<https://savepictontownhall.ca/>