

## **Town of Presque Isle: EDC Meeting Minutes**

### **April 24, 2018 2:30pm**

The meeting was called to order at 2:32pm by Chair Bonnie Byrnes. EDC members present: Bonnie Byrnes, Brenda Dyre, Chuck Hayes, Sarah Johnson, Beth Marohn, Mary Watkins, Carl Wolter, and Chris Wolter. Guests present: Debbie and Steve Smith.

A motion to approve the agenda with Bike Trails being moved up to Item B under Old Business, made by Chris, second by Chuck. All aye. A motion to approve the March 27, 2018 minutes as presented by Chris, second by Mary. All aye.

Bonnie noted that she presented an annual report/recap at the Town's annual meeting of items the EDC has been and continues to work on, including panfishing, downtown planning, recreational improvements (bike, parks), connect communities program/networking, and broadband.

No action on finances. Balance stands at \$1225.81.

No new business.

Old business:

1) Ayres and Associates contract. The town approved \$10,000 room tax expenditure at March 3rd meeting. Contract sent to town lawyer for review. Sarah obtained a copy of the lawyer's response and insurance company concerns and will send a copy of these to Ayres to see if they can remedy the concerns. Chuck noted Vilas County Highway is looking at option of redoing Hwy B all at one time rather than in phases which may mean Hwy B renovation will happen sooner than expected -- further reason to get Ayres contract in place and moving.

2) Steve Smith has been looking at what it would take to use WDNR land near South Crab Lake for bike trails. He heard back from the state that logging roads are open to recreation, however more information is needed. Steve is waiting to hear on signage, ability to promote trails, and what it takes to get added to 2020 Master Plan if needed. The area is unique in that it is along the watershed divide between L. Superior & Mississippi R. The site appears to have been logged somewhat recently and likely wouldn't be up for another logging project anytime soon.

3) The Town approved Presque Isle to pursue the Connect Communities application. Chris looked more into application and it is quite detailed. It was noted much of what they want may come out in the Ayres project and we should wait on that so that we don't double up the work. Chris would like to see a committee formed that can start to work on some of the items. This will be on the next agenda.

4) The Town has sent the Broadband Forward! community designation to the zoning committee, despite concerns this is not the right place and that no action has happened to date. The EDC is in favor of this designation for a number of reasons, one being that it will boost the grant request we are hopeful to submit. The EDC will voice support for the

designation in public comments, also noting Broadband Forward! staff have indicated local zoning laws are likely not applicable. The email message regarding this was sent to Cathy (originator of the issue) and Marshall as town chair. An EDC-sponsored survey to all property owners re:broadband is being included with the Chamber's May mailing. The cost is \$269. Brenda made a motion to expend the funds for the survey printing and stuffing (~1600 pieces), Beth second. All aye.

5) No update on Panfish Project. We are awaiting a return reply from WDNR Secretary Meyer.

6) Carl reported the Town Board's primary concern is equipment, housing, guidelines, etc. Sarah noted there was a holdup on the recreational immunity clause (which is no longer the case). The committee would like to pursue gathering of equipment asap.

7) Valuing Vilas County Water Program is set for June 5 at 3pm. Chuck will introduce Quita Sheehan. Brenda will donate water. Bonnie = brownies, cookies. Mary = cheese tray. Beth = coffee. Christine will bring items as well. Bonnie will highlight in Lakeland Times article.

Public Comment: Debbie and Steve Smith encouraged committee to look more into fish stocking at the ponds (Steve will contact DNR). Also reiterated that other communities are providing recreational equipment (ice skates, bikes, etc), and that the free use canoe/kayaks would be a fitting program and boost for Presque Isle.

Next Meeting is Tuesday, May 29 at 2:30pm.

Christine made a motion to adjourn at 3:45pm. Beth second. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.