

Parks and Rec Report of PPRC Meeting of November 27, 2023
ZOOM Meeting, 10:00 A.M.

Attendees Cathy Weber, Brian Luetzow, Eric Benn, Al Drum, Town Chair John MacLean, Town Supervisor Carl Wolter in person; Virtual Attendees Graig Neville and Kendra Gabbert of MSquared

Cathy called the meeting to order at 10:10 A.M.

Although the meeting agenda contained five distinct subjects, the meeting actually proceeded in a free form from subject to subject, as follows:

Where will the outlet from the south pond be installed? Cathy raised this question, followed by long discussion. Included in the discussion was the emergency spillway location, and the nature of the emergency spillway: 1) A shallow, long swale in the roadway? 2) A set of appropriately sized culvert pipes? As the discussion moved back to the pond drainage piping, the question of using a siphon was introduced—The siphon could be placed so it did not require disturbing the buried existing fiber optic cable. Heating tapes could prevent freezing. Brian described a removable plug technique making it easier to start siphon water flow. Discussion followed about disturbing existing berm soils when burying a drain pipe. Others pointed out that removal of original, non-engineered soils would allow engineered backfill material around the buried drainage pipe, which might be an advantage. Graig pointed out that the siphon is somewhat complex, requiring special attention and human intervention when activating, a disadvantage.

The discussion briefly moved on to the original handing over of an old system from the DNR to the Town of Presque Isle. Eric pointed out that the engineering firm must meet strict professional practices as professional engineers. Al commented on the time urgency to complete the grant application along with all of the design drawings and specifications, leaving little time to focus on past happenings as we look ahead to a March 1 deadline. There followed a brief discussion about repairs made in the past by DNR contractors or personnel.

Al mentioned that the PPRC will contact Town Attorney Steve Garbowitz with questions in interpreting the existing easement between the Town and the Upper Peninsula Telephone Company, the owner of the fiber optic broadband cables buried in Pipke Park. Briefly, the questions were---1) Does Presque Isle, as land ownership successor, assume the role of Grantor? 2) Does the Telephone Co. have to take active steps itself to install protection for its cable during construction? 3) How does the Town best approach the Telephone Co.? 4) Should MSquared eventually step in and work with the Telephone Company to effect these protections?

Cathy asked whether or not MSquared will oversee construction. MSquared will consider this question and respond at a later date.

Protections against beaver damage was discussed next. MSquared is making this a part of their design considerations. John asked if stop-logs can be armored against beaver damage. Graig suggested that aluminum stop logs may work for this purpose.

The group then considered the in-person appearance by MSquared personnel in Presque Isle at a special Town Board meeting. The group settled on Wednesday, December 13, at 9:00 A.M. The meeting should convene first, indoors, in the office, where MSquared engineers can describe the

workings and principles of the redesigns, perhaps using graphic displays and materials. Members felt that a structured presentation first, describing the redesign features, would allow also a vigorous question and answer session, with the public visitors free to ask questions of the engineers. The group would then proceed to the site in Pipke Park to walk around to all areas where new work will take place, with further presentation and questioning. The meeting would conclude early in the afternoon.

Members moved on to further subjects. John asked if the inlet from Little Horsehead Creek to the south pond will remain in place, and if a non-metallic sleeve can be placed in the deteriorating original piping as a permanent repair. MSquared will consider this as they work on the design.

Cathy referred to the selection of a contractor to do the work. She referred to Forrest Van Asten suggesting that we bear in mind that road contractors may be ideal for some of the buried pipe installations. MSquared will help to qualify interested contractors, and can offer help in writing a pre-bid query letter to prospective contractors. Graig suggested also that we talk to county engineering personnel (*for Vilas County, this would likely be the Vilas County Highway Commissioner*).

Eric mentioned that perhaps the best location for the south pond emptying piping is in the location where the original failed emptying pipe is located. (*This location has the advantage of the maximum differential between the pond bottom deep hole and the wetlands leading to the Presque Isle River.*) Carl recalled that the DNR had the means to empty the south pond completely.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 A.M.
Transcribed November 29, 2023

