

Presque Isle Municipal Ordinance Committee Minutes
Wednesday, May 22, 2023, 3:00 pm
Presque Isle Community Center

Attendees: Carl Watras, (Chairman), Bob Berdan (Secretary), Eric Benn, Kelly Dyre, Mike Brandt, and Tom Preston. Phil Harris and Carl Wolter, (Town liaison) were absent. Also present at the discussion table, Peggy Johnson Wiesner and Otto Nowak. Observing the meeting, citizens in person and on Zoom. Dave Bogan monitored the Zoom.

Call to order: Chairman Carl Watras called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

Approval of minutes: Eric Benn moved and Tom Preston seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2023 meeting. Unanimously approved.

Old Business: Chair Watras opened the discussion by again discussing a new wake ordinance which he drafted for discussion purposes. This draft was patterned after the existing Rhine Wisconsin Ordinance. Discussion followed about the size and lake conditions of the single lake (Crystal) impacted by the Rhine Ordinance, and whether its condition report is available. Chair Watras then asked Peggy Johnson Wiesner to discuss the drafts she and Otto Nowak created to modify the Rhine patterned Ordinance Chair Watras drafted, as well as a proposed modification to existing Ordinance 503 intended to harmonize activities as between wake boats and jet skis. Much discussion followed including whether the 10 original conditions to be addressed in enacting an ordinance to regulate artificially enhanced wakes are met by the Johnson-Nowak approach, and about the advisability of linking jet ski and wake boat regulation.

Ultimately, Chair Watras asked each committee member to share whether they might be supportive of activity limitations based upon 3 criteria: size of lake, distance from shore and time of day. Debate also occurred concerning whether it is preferable to regulate equipment usage or the activities themselves; whether carve outs from a generalized activity prohibition would be a possibility; and whether activities might be allowed if done on a permit issuance basis.

New Business. None.

Comments from the public. After the completion of the committee's discussion, Chair Watras asked audience members for their thoughts. Those present and on Zoom offered their opinions in support of and in opposition to wake regulation. Carl Watras asked Eric Benn to be prepared at the next meeting to discuss his idea for issuing

permits as a means to regulate wake activities, and Peggy Johnson Wiesner and Otto Nowak agreed to work off of Carl Watras' most recent 507 redraft for further discussion at the next meeting.

Finally, it was determined the next meeting, which again will be committee discussion, will be held on Tuesday June 13, at 3:00 pm.

Adjournment. Motion by Tom Preston, second by, Eric Benn to adjourn. Unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned shortly after 5:00 pm.