

**Town of Presque Isle**  
**Economic Development Committee Minutes – August 1, 2016**

**First Meeting:** The first meeting of the EDC was called to order at 6:10pm, with EDC members Bonnie Byrnes (Headwaters Real Estate), Brenda Dyre (Karsyn's Korner), Chuck Hayes (Citizen Liaison), and Sarah Johnson (Chamber Liaison) in attendance. Bill Hill (Yacht Club), Beth Marohn (Retreat Bar), and Adam Johnson (Town Liaison) were absent. Guests included: Barb Peck and Peggy Johnson Wiessner.

**Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed and accepted.

**New Business:**

Committee Purpose and Procedures. The Town requested that the group develop a set of "bylaws." The group reviewed a starting point document developed by Sarah Johnson, which would act as such. After discussion, the group approved the document with changes, and agreed it be presented to the town board. The document (since revised following Town input), is attached to the minutes. The group will discuss the "purpose" or established "mission" at the next meeting.

Appoint Committee Chair and/or Officers. In following with the procedures, the group agreed to have positions including Chair and a combined Secretary/Treasurer position. Chuck nominated Bonnie Byrnes as Chair, Brenda seconded, all aye (with Bonnie abstaining). Brenda nominated Sarah Johnson as Secretary/Treasurer, Chuck seconded, all aye (with Sarah abstaining).

Business Survey Results/Priorities. The group discussed possible priorities for the committee to explore, and suggests contacting Vilas County Regional Extension Educator Chris Starks to see about his availability in assisting the group in getting started. Sarah will contact him to see about his availability during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of August. It was also suggested the group get connected with Vilas Econ Development Committee (Bob Eagan) and inform the Town/businesses about Small Business/leadership courses as they arise. Boulder Junction is working on a downtown revitalization through a Connect Communities program, via WI Economic Development Corporation. May be another area/group to explore for possible services.

Phelps Small Town Forum. It was brought to the attention of the group that a Small Towns Forum would be hosted in Phelps on Wednesday, August 31. Bonnie and Sarah expressed interest/possible availability in attending.

Future Meeting Dates. The group will regularly meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 3pm. The next meeting will be Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at a location TBD.

**Town of Presque Isle**  
**Economic Development Committee (EDC) Procedures**

**1. Open Meetings**

Citizens are welcome to attend. The EDC should designate a time at each of its meetings for members of the public to ask questions, state opinions, and otherwise exchange information with the committee. Procedures should be written and kept with the EDC, and on file with the Town Clerk.

**2. Committee Make-Up (7)**

*Appointed Members:* There are five (5) Town-appointed members, including four (4) business members and one (1) citizen-at-large. EDC appointments are made by the Town at the January Town Board meeting, with two-year terms running ending December 31st. During Committee establishment and/or as needed, the EDC will establish a strategy to stagger appointed member terms. Should appointed members resign, or open seats remain, the EDC will recommend committee members to the Town, whom will carry out the remainder of the term they are filling.

*Liaison Members:* There are two (2) liaison members, one each from the Town of Presque Isle and the Presque Isle Chamber of Commerce. The Town and Chamber appoint in-house, and annually present their liaison to the Town at the January Town Board meeting.

**3. Open Seats**

Annually (due to staggered terms), some appointed member seats will open on December 31. Open seat(s) should be relayed to the Town Board via the EDC, and advertised in late October/early November. Interested parties should apply to the Town Board per Town procedures and timeline.

**4. Officers**

The EDC will annually elect a Chair and Secretary/Treasurer to 1-year terms at their January or February meeting (or upon EDC establishment at another time as committee sees fit). If an officer resigns, the EDC should elect a replacement as soon as feasible. Anyone serving on the EDC may hold office. The EDC has the authority to split the Secretary/Treasurer position at such time as they deem necessary.

**5. Voting**

In order to send an advisory vote to the Town Board, a quorum (4) of EDC members must be present and cast a vote. All members vote, except the Town Liaison. In the case of a tie, the motion fails. A motion made at a meeting should be seconded before discussion proceeds.

**6. Meeting Date, Time and Location**

Before a meeting is adjourned, the EDC should schedule its next meeting, making all attempts to set a regular monthly meeting date/time. The Secretary/Treasurer must notify the Town Clerk of the meeting date, time and location, and provide an agenda no less than 48 hours before the meeting, as well as post at designated sites in Town.

**7. Minutes and Handouts**

Minutes should be held by the Secretary/Treasurer and sent to the Town Clerk, and include:

- a) names of the members in attendance, members not in attendance, and guests,
- b) the topics discussed with a brief summary of key discussion points,
- c) all votes taken (indicating the number for , against, and abstaining), and
- d) the date and time of the next meeting.

A committee need not vote to approve minutes before releasing them. Drafts of minutes can be sent to the Town Clerk at any time; with any future corrected minutes resent to the Town Clerk for posting.

**Town of Presque Isle**  
**Economic Development Committee (Discussion/Unofficial) Minutes – Sept 8, 2016**

**Present:** Chair Bonnie Byrnes, Secretary/Treasurer Sarah Johnson, Committee Members Brenda Dyre and Chuck Hayes, and Town Board Liaison Adam Johnson were present.

**Agenda:** It was noted the agenda was not posted in time, and so this is an unofficial meeting/discussion with no action to be taken.

**Old Business:**

EDC Procedures: Final tweaks were made as discussed in August and presented to town; "rubber stamped" by Town.

Vilas County Extension: Sarah reached out and did not hear back, about attendance at a future meeting to assist in EDC's planning and start-up efforts. Chuck suggested contacting Nancy Miller if we do not hear back from Chris Starks.

**New Business:**

Committee Resignation: Bill Hill/Yacht Club would like to resign due to his now limited involvement with the Tavern. Adam advised this needs to be in writing to the Town, and his resignation officially accepted. He will be contacted and a request for formal resignation made. Committee members will reach out to other interested business members that may like to serve and request they submit a paragraph of their interest and/or to attend next meeting.

Purpose Statement: Reviewed/discussed draft. Fine as written, will vote on approval next time, and share result with Town thereafter. "The EDC supports businesses and commercial/recreational initiatives that preserve the character of the Town and natural environment, while promoting and securing avenues that encourage business growth and development. The goal of the EDC is to attract opportunities and developments that increase resident property values, grow a sustainable year-round job market, and improve our quality of life. Initiatives may include:

- special tax incentives to new businesses,
- business development and main street improvement grants,
- recreational improvements,
- and other programs that foster a healthy, year-round local economy.

Governor's Summit: Discussion that this would be good for committee members to attend. It was suggested the Town be approached for funding for those able to attend. This will be formalized and shared with Adam for the next Town Board Meeting.

Establishing Priorities: A brainstorming list of items for committee to focus on included, and in no particular order:

- Downtown Clean Up
- Bike Trail Development - Paved, Off-Road - Wilderness Pedalers Support/Connections
- Kids Fishing/Panfishing Established at the Rearing Ponds - DNR Stock?

- Game Fishing - Walleye and Musky (50" Limit)
- Facilities
  - Main Street
  - Parks (used to be weekly inspections by committee)
  - Empty Buildings
  - New Bridge/Guard Rails
  - Curb & Gutter on Main Street to fight erosion
  - Nice Lighting
  - Park Flush Toilets
  - Wilderness Park - Access/Views to Lake
- Public Beach
- Groomed X-Country Trails
- Cultural Arts Building/Playhouse
- ATV Trail Development and/or Road Access to/from Michigan
- Anchor Business Established/Recruited
- Strategic/Master Plan Developed

**Town of Presque Isle**  
**Economic Development Committee (EDC) Procedures**

**1. Open Meetings**

Citizens are welcome to attend. The EDC should designate a time at each of its meetings for members of the public to ask questions, state opinions, and otherwise exchange information with the committee. Procedures should be written and kept with the EDC, and on file with the Town Clerk.

**2. Committee Make-Up (7)**

*Appointed Members:* There are five (5) Town-appointed members, including four (4) business members and one (1) citizen-at-large. EDC appointments are made by the Town at the January Town Board meeting, with two-year terms running ending December 31st. During Committee establishment and/or as needed, the EDC will establish a strategy to stagger appointed member terms. Should appointed members resign, or open seats remain, the EDC will recommend committee members to the Town, whom will carry out the remainder of the term they are filling.

*Liaison Members:* There are two (2) liaison members, one each from the Town of Presque Isle and the Presque Isle Chamber of Commerce. The Town and Chamber appoint in-house, and annually present their liaison to the Town at the January Town Board meeting.

**3. Open Seats**

Annually (due to staggered terms), some appointed member seats will open on December 31. Open seat(s) should be relayed to the Town Board via the EDC, and advertised in late October/early November. Interested parties should apply to the Town Board per Town procedures and timeline.

**4. Officers**

The EDC will annually elect a Chair and Secretary/Treasurer to 1-year terms at their January or February meeting (or upon EDC establishment at another time as committee sees fit). If an officer resigns, the EDC should elect a replacement as soon as feasible. Anyone serving on the EDC may hold office. The EDC has the authority to split the Secretary/Treasurer position at such time as they deem necessary.

**5. Voting**

In order to send an advisory vote to the Town Board, a quorum (4) of EDC members must be present and cast a vote. All members vote, except the Town Liaison. In the case of a tie, the motion fails. A motion made at a meeting should be seconded before discussion proceeds.

**6. Meeting Date, Time and Location**

Before a meeting is adjourned, the EDC should schedule its next meeting, making all attempts to set a regular monthly meeting date/time. The Secretary/Treasurer must notify the Town Clerk of the meeting date, time and location, and provide an agenda no less than 48 hours before the meeting, as well as post at designated sites in Town.

**7. Minutes and Handouts**

Minutes should be held by the Secretary/Treasurer and sent to the Town Clerk, and include:

- a) names of the members in attendance, members not in attendance, and guests,
- b) the topics discussed with a brief summary of key discussion points,
- c) all votes taken (indicating the number for , against, and abstaining), and
- d) the date and time of the next meeting.

A committee need not vote to approve minutes before releasing them. Drafts of minutes can be sent to the Town Clerk at any time; with any future corrected minutes resent to the Town Clerk for posting.

**Town of Presque Isle**  
**Economic Development Committee Minutes – October 13, 2016**

**Present:** Chair Bonnie Byrnes, Secretary/Treasurer Sarah Johnson, Committee Members Brenda Dyre and Beth Marohn. Member Chuck Hayes and Town Board Liaison Adam Johnson (with notice) were absent. Guests present included: Peg Johnson-Wiessner, Barb Peck, and Christine Wolter.

**Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed. Brenda made a motion to approve, Sarah seconded. All aye.

**Minutes:** Minutes from August 1, 2016 and September 8, 2016 were reviewed. Sarah made a motion to approve the August 1 minutes; Brenda seconded. All aye. The September minutes are not up for approval as it was an unofficial meeting.

**Public Comment:** None

**Old Business:**

Committee Resignation: Brenda will get letter from Bill Hill/Yacht Club and this will be submitted to Town for next meeting.

Purpose Statement: The following was agreed to present to the Town as our guiding statement: *The EDC supports businesses and commercial/recreational initiatives that preserve the character of the Town and natural environment, while promoting and securing avenues that encourage business growth and development. The goal of the EDC is to attract opportunities and developments that increase resident property values, grow a sustainable year-round job market and greater economic activity, and that improve our quality of life. Initiatives may include:*

- *special tax incentives to its businesses,*
- *rural development and main street improvement grants,*
- *recreational improvements,*
- *and other programs that will foster a healthy, year-round local economy.*

Establishing Priorities: The list that was collectively made at the last meeting was reviewed and discussed. It was agreed panfishing at the Rearing Ponds should be a priority item. Town Liaison Adam Johnson previously reported he would pursue this, and that it had been presented by the DNR as a very real and doable action item in the past. Committee members were then asked to rank the remainder items and the following made the "short list":

1) **Downtown Cleanup, Restoration and Planning** (i.e. Curb & Gutter, Lights, Weedy Lots, etc.). Future actions: explore existing ordinances that assist in guiding clean-up, and gain knowledge on lot ownership and lots/buildings for possible use by businesses or other needs. Information gained could help guide a plan for the downtown.

2) **Bike Trail** The Wilderness Pedalers are working behind the scenes on a route to connect Presque Isle to Vilas County's Heart of the North Trail. They are planning to work on funding over the winter and spring. The EDC would like to assist and help with this project as may best fit.

3) **Cultural Arts Center** Presque Isle's Denim 'N Dessert Reader's Theater have established a good thing, and this could be expanded on and work as even more of an asset if there was an Arts Center for shows, classes, storage, etc...



4) **Public Beach** There may be opportunities at various locations including a possible park development (currently privately owned), or at Town owned Presque Isle Wilderness Park, etc.

5) **ATV County Road Access from Michigan** There was discussion of business input over the last year plus, for which there is overwhelming support for access (note: there has been no polling on ATV trails and thus the EDC is not weighing in or supporting this at this time). It was noted there may be strong opposition; but the committee believes the discussion should be pursued given businesses desire for road access as a means to improve their economic activity.

Vilas County Extension: Chris Starks is willing to meet with the committee to assist with advice on operations, suggestions on funding, etc. He will be contacted for a November date.

#### **New Business:**

New Committee Member: Our procedures, which were reviewed/accepted by the Town, state that vacancies from resignations would be filled by "the EDC recommend(ing) committee member(s) to the Town." The Committee received a letter of interest from Christine Wolter, a representative of Wolter Sand, Gravel & Excavating and spoke with her regarding her interest. Sarah made a motion to recommend to the Town Board that Christine Wolter - as a business representative of Wolter Sand, Gravel & Excavating - be recommended to fill the vacant seat, pending the Town's acceptance of Bill Hill/Yacht Club's resignation. Brenda seconded. All aye.

Governor's Northern Region Economic Development Summit: The summit is hosted in Minocqua at The Waters on Thursday, November 10, and includes agenda items such as Recreational Trails, Access to Capital for Business Development, and Small Business Start-up. Committee members agreed it would be an excellent opportunity to learn more from the State and other communities. It is \$85/person and the committee will approach our Town Liaison to request funding.

Town/EDC Funding: There was discussion over what EDC would need 2017 funding for:

1) Attendance at workshops, geared towards topics of priority and Economic Development.

2) Downtown Concept Drawing/Plan. The EDC is interested in contracting a firm to develop a plan for downtown clean-up, restoration, and new business or community venture developments. In 2020, it is likely our main road will be redone with curb & gutter, and we'd like to have a plan that helps to guide additional improvements which may include sidewalks, lighting, greater connection/improvements to town assets, ideas for empty buildings, etc. We'd like to find a firm that incorporates community and stakeholder input in the concept plan's development.

It was agreed we will approach the Town Board at the next budget meeting with the above, and a request for up to \$5,000 to be budgeted for the EDC.

**Public Comment:** Barb Peck suggested that as the EDC prioritizes, they recognize if activities are designed to 1) pull in more people/tourist base or 2) to improve the quality of life for existing homeowners and residents. The list of developed priorities was looked at through this lens and it was determined that some of the items do both, and others focus more on #1 or #2.

**Next Meeting:** TBD, as the regular date/time of our meeting is at the same time as the Governor's Northern Wisconsin Economic Development Summit.

**Adjournment:** Chair Bonnie Byrnes adjourned the meeting at 5:20pm.



**Town of Presque Isle**  
**Economic Development Committee Minutes – November 3, 2016**

**The meeting was called to order at 3:02pm.**

**Present:** Chair Bonnie Byrnes, Secretary/Treasurer Sarah Johnson, Members Brenda Dyre and Chuck Hayes, and Town Board Liaison Adam Johnson. Absent: Beth Marohn with notice. Guests present included: Chris Stark (UW-Vilas Extension), Susie Gawriluk, Colleen Gorrilla, Maymee Siegner, Janine Slatinsky, Cathy Weber, and Peg Johnson Wiessner.

**Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed, with a change to minute dates to October 13, 2016. With change in place, Chuck made a motion to approve, Sarah seconded. All aye.

**Minutes:** Minutes from October 13, 2016 were reviewed. Sarah made a motion to approve; Chuck seconded. All aye.

**Public Comment:** Susie Gawriluk asked the Committee to speak to how the Chamber and the EDC were different. Sarah noted that the Chamber is member-based and focuses on tourism and publicity, member communications, promoting a positive sense of community, and stays involved with economic development issues, but is not staffed in order to take on this leadership role within the community. The EDC is a town committee with an appointed membership, and is solely focused on economic development issues. Bonnie shared the EDC's purpose statement: *The EDC supports businesses and commercial/recreational initiatives that preserve the character of the Town and natural environment, while promoting and securing avenues that encourage business growth and development. The goal of the EDC is to attract opportunities and developments that increase resident property values, grow a sustainable year-round job market, and improve our quality of life. Initiatives may include:*

- *special tax incentives to its businesses,*
  - *rural development and main street improvement grants,*
  - *recreational improvements,*
- and other programs that will foster a healthy, year-round local economy.*

Additional questions/comments from the public were in regards to establishment of priorities. There was question as to why broadband was not on the priority list. It was noted there is action in town on this regard (laying of fiberoptic via grant funding), and that the committee previously discussed this broadly under town revitalization. It was also noted the priority list is dynamic and was a starting point based on input committee members had heard to date, including surveys and results from the business community. The EDC agreed broadband is a very important economic development issue and should be an area of focus. It is on the agenda at the upcoming Governor's Conference and some members of the EDC will be attending to learn more. Chris Starks, UW-Extension, noted there are CAF-II funds that the Town may want to look into and that Grow North is a broadband consortium of people/counties from throughout the north for which the committee can get connected with.

## **Old Business:**

Committee Resignation The Town accepted Bill Hill's resignation. The EDC has recommended Christine Wolter to the Town and are awaiting the Town's formal action on this appointment.

Town Funding 2017: The Town is looking at budgeting \$1500 for the EDC for 2017 (the committee asked for \$5,000 but the town does not have much wiggle room this coming year); yet they noted other funding sources may be available if particular projects are identified by the EDC.

Governor's Small Business Summit Attendance/Funding: The Town has approved the funding of EDC members: Bonnie Byrnes, Brenda Dyre, and Sarah Johnson to attend, as well as interested committee member, Christine Wolter. The Summit is on November 8, 2016 at the Waters and is expected to address pertinent items and networking opportunities related to broadband, recreational trails, transportation, grants, etc.

Rearing Ponds Update: Brenda noted she has contact with a private fish hatchery in Rhinelander. The project would have to go through WDNR's Steve Gilbert. The primary question is for panfish (not gamefish). Adam noted that there is sufficient water flow through the ponds to avoid harsh-winter fish kills. Chuck noted that the South pond is 12ft at its deepest and the North pond is 17ft. Adam will reach out to WDNR's Steve Gilbert to ask about possibility as the EDC sees it as a tourism draw and something that can improve the quality of life of residents (particularly those that live off-water, or for those for which boat fishing is difficult). Also check with Steve Gilbert about private fish stocking (or public/DNR).

## **New Business:**

Lengths of Terms (1/2 Yr): Tabled until next meeting.

Main Street Inventory: The EDC is gathering information on main street ownership. Bonnie brought a map that includes this information so that it can be a part of the downtown clean-up and revitalization/development discussions moving forward. I.e. what lots are for sale, what is town-owned, how are places zoned, etc... By 2020, and according to our new Vilas highway commissioner, Nick Scholtis, Presque Isle will be up for repaving main street, and he hopes to help us secure grant funding for curb and gutter as well. The EDC would like to use this as a time to also plan for sidewalks, lighting, new bridge, and other aesthetic and functional enhancements. Sarah will reach out to a design group that did Mercer's downtown planning that included much of this, and see how much an initial concept plan would cost. The other benefit of engaging a landscape architect-planner is that part of what they do is get the pulse of the community and seek feedback via surveys and stakeholder meetings, etc. Susie suggested to the EDC that this not be contracted out, noting that there is expertise in the Town for this kind of work. Discussion ensued, and the committee continued to see value in an outside group offering the concept planning service, while noting that this would also help to identify the people in the community that can be tapped and communicated with moving forward.

Priority Items – Next Steps: Noted above. Contact with WDNR re: rearing ponds. Reach out to potential concept planning firm.

Vilas County Extension Q&A: Much discussion was shared throughout the meeting and no specific questions at this time. Chris noted that attendance at the Governor's Summit and also in trying to connect with Vilas EDC, other communities EDC's, etc., would be great for networking and helping us to learn from the lessons they have learned (specifically of mention was Phelps, Three Lakes (broadband), and Manitowish Waters). Chris also noted that he can work on gathering statistics for Presque Isle, that note the % of population of Vilas of our year-round population, and what % of retail sales we have within the County (i.e. Phelps is 5.6% of the population but has retail of just 1.4%).

**Public Comment:** Cathy Weber expressed her support of the downtown curb/gutter, sidewalks, etc., and was glad to hear the EDC was looking forward at this. There was concern expressed by Susie over the ATV road access, and about whether the issues the EDC were taking on were large enough in nature. The EDC noted that while ATV road access made the early priority list (#5) that there are no planned action steps and the EDC's current focus is on Rearing Ponds, downtown (+broadband), cultural arts center and bike trail. Currently, too the EDC is focusing on items that will make a difference more quickly and revitalize the community now, so that larger items/development can follow. Maymee Siegner spoke to broadband as well, noting that more individuals and businesses could function out of their homes if service was improved upon, and that this is a boost for a town's economic development. Colleen seconded this, noting that people working out of their homes is important for Presque Isle to focus on.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, December 8.

**Adjournment:** Chuck made a motion to adjourn. Brenda seconded. All aye.

## **Town of Presque Isle**

### **Economic Development Committee Minutes – December 8, 2016**

**The meeting was called to order at 3:04pm.**

**Present:** Chair Bonnie Byrnes, Secretary/Treasurer Sarah Johnson, Members Brenda Dyre, Chuck Hayes, Beth Marohn, Chris Wolter and Town Board Liaison Adam Johnson. Guests present included: Colleen Gorrilla, Maymee Siegner, and Cathy Weber.

**Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed. Chuck made a motion to approve, Brenda seconded. All aye.

**Minutes:** Minutes from November 3, 2016 were reviewed. Brenda made a motion to approve; Chuck seconded. All aye.

**Public Comment:** Cathy Weber asked of the committee to consider the question: What kind of business might we attract. Non-industrial? Call center? Places that don't need city H2O? Etc...

#### **Old Business:**

Governor's Small Business Summit: 3 committee members were in attendance, and attended various programs on Rural Development, Tourism, Recreational Trails, Forestry/Industry, Broadband, etc. Good connections and networking were made including: 1) Mark Hogan | Secretary and CEO of Wisconsin's EDC, 2) WDNR NHAL Superintendent Steve Petersen, 3) Angie Dickinson, State Broadband Director, and 4) Bob Eagan, Vilas County EDC. Materials regarding possible development and restoration grants were received, and a firmer understanding of western Vilas County broadband was garnered. The Town paid for EDC members' attendance.

Broadband Updates: Presque Isle is part of a 4-town Connect America Fund Part II (CAF II), that is laying fiber optic now and into this coming year along major highways. This is a federal grant, that is paying (in our instance) part of CenturyLink's cost to put this in. The most recent information was that Presque Isle was serviced first and that every home will have a minimum of 10Mbps upload at 1 megabit per second. People closer to the fiber may see speeds closer to 80-100Mbps. The committee will continue to stay abreast and will work on a press release as more concrete/confirmed information becomes available. This will improve the overall business climate

Rearing Ponds Update: It was learned the DNR does not stock panfish and that a private stocking operation would be used. Permits would come from the WDNR. Steve Gilbert is our contact – although he is in the midst of a job change. Sarah will be connecting with him to gather further information. Brenda has contact with possible stocker – Syrens out of Stevens Point.

Downtown Planning Update: Ayres Associate's Blake Theisen (Madison-based) will present EDC by next meeting, a proposal re: community planning, downtown renovation, vision. Blake's firm is the one that did the conceptual planning and

construction/implementation for Mercer's downtown revamp, bike trail connection, etc...

### **New Business:**

Lengths of Terms (1/2 Yr): Randomly picked out of a "hat": 1-year terms (concluding December 2017) = Bonnie Byrnes and Chris Wolter. 2-year terms (concluding December 2018) = Brenda Dyre, Chuck Hayes, and Beth Marohn. Chamber and Town Liaisons are appointed by Chamber/Town.

Main Street/Holiday Decorations: It was quickly determined additional town/holiday decorations are a nice idea but not a priority.

Vilas EDC Meetings: Group feels it is important to attend Vilas EDC meetings and will work to get on email distribution and on rotating committee member attendance. The meetings are combined Tourism/EDC and are held the first Tuesday of each month 9am in Eagle River. It was also noted that Bob Egan, Vilas EDC, would like to attend our EDC meetings and may be at the January meeting. Barry MacLeane from the MW Incubator and staff of Vilas EDC is also interested in staying in the loop. Both will be added to email distribution re: agendas, minutes, meetings.

Chamber – New Events: The Chamber is working on a stronger model for events, that involve area businesses and organizations to a greater degree, and so benefits of events are spread back to organizations and businesses. The biggest change is moving Country Fair from a 1-day declining event to a 2-day event with focus on Saturday silent sports, outdoor recreation, 5K/10K run, SUP and kayaking, pontoon rides, etc. and for Sunday to center around a lumberjack days theme. Working to get a traveling Lumberjack show to Presque Isle (internationally-known group).

### **Public Comment:**

Colleen Gorrilla: Hopes Presque Isle will gain stronger voice in the County.

Colleen Gorrilla: Hopes the committee will focus on fishing and how that relates to tourism and people wanting to spend more time here. Our fishing is not what it used to be. Is the EDC the right group to work on this? Involves State, Federal, Tribal laws. State limits are hurting our fishing... people can't catch enough for a dinner. Other questions/discussion centered on bass fishing tournaments and the possibility for that.

Colleen Gorrilla: Home-based businesses should be encouraged/nurtured with increased broadband. People can utilize incubator or community building for traveling "office" space...

Cathy Weber: Check out Door County Peninsula Players – they are a strong part of community, much like Denim 'N Dessert. It was noted D & D are slated to be on the January EDC agenda.

Maymee Siegner: Would like to host a Hometown Winter Rendezvous that involves all businesses, organizations, school – would highlight storefront as well as home-based businesses with booths. Want to draw people in, make it fun, kids activities, raffle drawings, bonfire/food/drinks. A way to introduce people to ALL that people are doing and that is available in our town. Positive public relations, would be about positive

momentum and support for businesses while having fun and engaging people. Would like to host Saturday of Presidents Day weekend and looking for partnership or support from the EDC in some way. It was suggested to host a separate meeting to discuss this more formally and fully as it's quite a big idea and would need to understand EDC role.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, January 12 at 3pm

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 4:20pm.