

**Presque Isle Parks and Recreation Committee**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**January 20, 2021**

Call to order—The regular meeting of the Presque Isle Parks and Recreation Committee was called to order by Chair, Barb Peck, at 10:03 A.M., January 20, 2021, in the Presque Isle town office large meeting room. Also present were committee members Al Drum, Eric Benn and Rich Schmalzer, and liaison, Cathy Weber.

Item 1-Approval of the minutes of December 16, 2020—Eric moved to approve the 12/16/2020 minutes, seconded by Rich. Motion carried.

Item 2-Public Comment—None

Item 3-Correspondence

- Eric stated that Judy Farling is interested in assuming the vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Committee. During brief discussion, members acknowledged that Judy needs to apply for the position in a letter to Town Clerk Lorine Walters, which will be followed by an invitation for an interview.

- Rich talked with Paul Stearns, DNR Forester, about beaver activity affecting trees in Pipke Park. Paul will forward to Rich some information on beaver activity control measures which likely include trapping and dismantling of beaver structures. Rich is setting up a meeting with Paul for the morning of Tuesday, February 16, to include a visit to Pipke Park. Rich will email interested people indicating the exact time for the visit.

- Rich briefly suggested that the Town consider reviewing its forestry harvesting practices and protocols for tree harvesting on town-owned lands.

- There followed a discussion regarding the financing for the log pavilion structural work. Cathy distributed a sheet to members that Town Chair Marshall Reckard had presented at the January 7, 2021 Town Board Meeting. This sheet will become a part of these minutes. The following is a summary of the funding sources (taken from the sheet handed out by Cathy) proposed by Chair Reckard for the pavilion structural work:

- \$20,996.68 already in escrow from last two years' budgets

- \$12,944.42 unspent by P & R in 2020 available for placing in escrow

- \$1,142.90 can be borrowed from pavilion log refurbishing future project

- \$35,084.00 equals the NASI proposal

- Rich reported on the Little Horsehead Lake boat landing reconstruction project: at the January Town Board meeting Chair Reckard suggested we tell Coleman Engineering (Little Horsehead landing engineering designers) to go forward with the project, but that the infiltration ditch system needs to be included in project design documentation. Discussion followed, including questions regarding who will secure construction permits.

Item 4-Old Business

Item a) Log Pavilion Bids Update---Al Reported that the Town Board approved NASI's bid at the December 16 meeting, and that NASI has the signed contract in hand. Chair Reckard would like early construction completion, which NASI also would like. NASI will try to arrange with Vilas County and the Town to transport moderate loads of concrete early in the mornings during road load limits to facilitate project completion as soon as possible in the spring. Marshall feels that both the Town and the County will cooperate with NASI on this practice. Al asked members to think about the type of stonework NASI will put on the new log post pedestals.

Item b) Maintenance Projects---Eric referred to his latest spread sheet (which will be part of

these minutes) containing fifteen items. The Committee should establish lead individuals, or perhaps project managers, to shepherd each maintenance item. The sheet ought to undergo review each meeting. Decisions recommending action should follow on just one or two projects at a time, and should be presented to the Town Board on a piecemeal basis. In this way, the Committee itself will control the tempo of project introduction, perhaps awaiting in-progress completions before recommending additional project startups.

Item c) Grill at Pipke Park pavilion---Rich reported. The grill will likely have a concrete apron to stand on. Procedures need to be developed for handling the propane system. The grill is assembled, stored temporarily inside the pavilion. Max will prepare the apron, but needs direction for location. The Economic Development Committee shares in this project coordination. Barb offered to visit the EDC to discuss location of the grill and other considerations.

Item d) Paddling Trails---Nothing to report at this time

Item e) Main Street Development---No plans have been released as yet.

#### Item 5-New Business

Item a) Catherine Wolter Wilderness Area Trails---Rich expressed concern that a large portion of Wolter trails was undergoing grooming for cross country skiing, making the groomed portion unsuitable for snowshoeing. An agreement between the Town and Nature Conservancy established grooming only on one trail (the Yellow Trail), but it appears that a second trail (Green Trail) has also been groomed. Discussion followed, acknowledging that Max grooms only when he has ample time away from his work within the Town lands, and that Conservancy Director Matt Dallman has no objection to the town grooming within the Conservancy. Members recognized that use within the Conservancy has increased dramatically recently, increasing the requirement to honor the needs of competing users. The Town and Nature Conservancy need to confer on managing what is a really good development--the new-found popularity for the Conservancy trails.

Item b) Next Meeting is Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 10:00 A.M.

Additional subjects—Liaison Cathy Weber---Cathy suggested these topics for possible future agenda items: Beaver activities at the Legion and Pipke Park; Mural on vault toilet by fire barn

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Drum, Secretary, Presque Isle Parks and Recreation Committee  
Transcribed January 22, 2021