

**Town of Presque Isle**  
**Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes, Tues. 1.30.2018 2:30PM**  
**Location: Town Board Room**

- I. Call to order by President Bonnie Byrnes at 2:32pm. Present were committee members: Bonnie Byrnes, Brenda Dyre, Chuck Hayes, Sarah Johnson, Beth Marohn, Mary Watkins, Christine Wolter; and Town Liaison Carl Wolter.
- II. Recognition of guests: Barry McLeane, Vilas EDC; Scott McPherson, PI Chamber, and Presque Isle Citizens, Steve and Debbie Smith.
- III. A motion to approve the agenda as posted was made by Christine, second by Brenda. All aye.
- IV. A motion to approve the minutes of 10/26/17 meeting made by Christine, second by Chuck. All aye.
- V. Chair Remarks: Bonnie welcomed new member Mary Watkins. Mary shared that she is/has been owner to a couple small businesses and served as volunteer event chair for Peoria, IL "Take Pride in Peoria" event.
- VI. New Business:
  - A. **Appointed Committee Members** - Tabled, awaiting direction from Marshall. We had 2-year terms in our Bylaws (believe we may need to switch to 3), and there may be additional term changes.
  - B. **Finance Report** - Approved 2 expenditures for final attempt/trip to the Dells to meet with DNR Secretary, Dan Meyer. \$244.19 to Scott McPherson, Mileage Reimbursement at 2018 federal rate. \$30.00 to Sarah Johnson, Meals Reimbursement at State rate (X3: Bonnie, Sarah, Scott).
- VII. Old Business
  - A. **Downtown Planning:** The EDC request for \$10,000 to pay for Ayres & Associates consultation for downtown design/planning is in front of Room Tax Committee. If approved, their recommendation will be sent to the Town Board for March meeting approval consideration.
    - A. Vilas County Highway Department still has not heard on STP (Stormwater Management) funding that is an essential part of the Main Street redo scheduled for 2020 (road from bank to PI Pub). The Vilas Hwy Commissioner will contact Brenda when he hears.
    - B. Sarah contacted Vilas Hwy Commissioner to assure guidelines/additional projects for downtown improvements during Main Street redo in 2020 (i.e. curb & gutter, lighting, signage) could be incorporated and he confirmed these could be (design + funding would have to be in place).
  - B. **Broadband Grants/SonicNet** - More information on CenturyLink plan/progress is being understood, and sounds like they are almost done with upgrades (just

did Annabelle & Lynx). In order to pursue summer broadband grant, need to understand who still doesn't have service and how the upgrades are working.

**C. Panfish Project | Sec. Meyer Visit** - The visit and ask went as well as can be expected. Secretary Meyer open to the idea, recognized win-win, and will talk with Dept of Agriculture. He will let us know within 3 weeks if the project is a go. Also discussed: Legion's and white pier (Team Retreat) by Pipke Park = handicapped accessible. Would want to assure fishing piers in good shape, accessible, equipment options, etc...

**D. Resource Report -**

**A. Connect Communities Program** - Christine will work to invite other town board members that are engaged in program to hear how it is making an impact (BJ or MW).

**B. Community Development Block Grant** - This grant may be fitting for certain aspects of the downtown planning project, up to \$500,000 with a match (mix of cash and inkind). Grant is due May 2018 and would be a big deal (possibly need paid grant administrator, with salary to be covered by grant). Phelps may have received this - Steve Duyon, Town Chair would be contact. Sarah will continue to look into eligibility and to research further.

VIII. **Public Comment:** Barry McLeane from Vilas EDC informed the committee that the next Vilas EDC meeting is Fri., February 9 from 9am-12pm in Eagle River.

IX. **Next Meeting** - Tues., February 27 2:30pm.

X. **Adjournment** - Sarah made a motion to adjourn. Chuck second. All aye. Meeting adjourned at 3:15pm.

**Town of Presque Isle**  
**Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes, Tues. 2.27.2018 2:30PM**  
**Location: Community Center Room**

- I. Call to order by President Bonnie Byrnes at 2:33pm. Present were committee members: Bonnie Byrnes, Chuck Hayes, Sarah Johnson, Mary Watkins, Christine Wolter; and Town Liaison Carl Wolter. Absent with notice: Brenda Dyre and Beth Marohn
- II. Recognition of guests: WEDC/Connect Communities Representative Jim Rosenberg; Town Supervisor Cathy Weber; and Presque Isle Citizens, Barb Peck and Steve and Debbie Smith.
- III. A motion to approve the agenda as posted was made by Chuck, second by Mary. All aye.
- IV. A motion to approve the minutes of 1/30/18 meeting made by Chuck, second by Christine. All aye.
- V. Chair Remarks: None
- VI. New Business: None
- VII. Old Business
  - A. Connect Communities Program:** Jim Rosenberg, WEDC and Connect Communities Program Representative provided insight in the program's benefits. Key points:
    - A.** This is a "Main Street Lite" program. No need for staffing, but needs 1-2 committed volunteers to carry forward, along with engaged members on a Connect Communities group. There are 68 communities in Wis.
    - B.** Primary focus: assisting towns with resources (educational and networking) for downtown revitalization efforts.
    - C.** Commitment from Town is \$200 and the committed volunteers need to attend two trainings per year (webinar-based).
    - D.** Connect Communities show a commitment to improvement, this may provide some clout with legislators and/or grant applications.
    - E.** Presque Isle would be one of (if not) the smallest community in the program. Jim indicated benefits still great as ideas are scalable. Boulder Junction is a CC town, Land O and MW are exploring the idea.
    - F.** Chuck asked Jim to provide responses to two questions: Does WEDC have certain set of guidelines to help guide downtown revitalization projects? And When do needs assessments come into play with downtown planning and revitalization efforts? How does CC assist with these questions.
    - G.** Additional items/discussion centered around: new revolving loan funds for businesses (provide loans for businesses that need capital for bank loans); and PI's differentiation as far as lack of "storefront" main street,

and more emphasis on assets like green space, parks, bike trail connection, welcoming signage, historic/cultural connections.

**H. Christine Wolter** spoke with the BJ CC representative, Colleen Swanson, and will be sharing at next meeting the results of a homeowner survey they carried out in BJ.

**B. Community Development Block Grant:** Angela Davis is administrator of the grant program, from WI Department of Administration. She indicated that PI may be eligible for up to \$500,000 and that application in May 2019 would be best. There is work to be done to determine eligibility, as well as what projects funding would be best for, and how to come up with the matching funds. This program would likely need a separate grant administrator if received to manage project, finances, etc. for the town (and could be funded within the grant funds).

**C. Downtown Planning** - The Room Tax Committee voted unanimously to recommend the Town disperse \$10,000 to fund the Ayres & Associates planning proposal. The issue will be on the agenda on Thursday, March 1. The committee reviewed the Room Tax guidelines and noted the request comes from the municipality's 25% of room tax funds -- set aside for community upgrades. If the Town approves the disbursement, the EDC will need to come up with the remainder ~\$1300 and will need to determine start time for the work to begin. It is an approximately 3-month process (consultants suggest starting in April or May and running through June or July).

**D. Broadband** - Cathy Weber, Town Supervisor, is presenting information to the Town Board at this week's March 1 meeting regarding PI becoming a Broadband Forward Community. The Town would have to adopt an ordinance (there are samples online). Cathy will let the EDC know if anything further from our committee may be needed as this moves forward. SonicNet is still looking at applying for a tower grant for Presque Isle residents, specifically for those that are not experiencing positive results from the CenturyLink upgrade. They need to know where the gaps or poor service are in order to see if a tower makes sense. The EDC can send out a postcard with the Chamber's early May mailing to gather information. This same survey can be filled out online as well. Lori from SonicNet will present a few sample questions to the EDC for consideration at the next meeting. Cost to EDC would be printing + stuffing but no additional postage.

**E. Panfish Project Update** - No word from WDNR Secretary Dan Meyer. Have a call in to see about final decision.

**F. Committee Member Terms** - We will reach out to Brenda and Beth to see who would like to be moved to 2019 expiration. The Procedures will be revised to assure 3-year terms moving forward.

#### VIII. Public Comment:

A. Mary Watkins shared that **Geocaching** is something new coming to Presque Isle, that may help to engage residents and visitors. Bill Rutherford is working with the Chamber, Friends of Library, etc., to set these up for this coming season. They will have historical/cultural emphasis.

- B. Steve Smith suggested the Town pursue **Kayaks/Canoes at Sensebrenner Park**, so that people have ability to go onto a wilderness lake and panfish (rather than just the ponds). He indicated he has been in the bait shop in town and often hears people asking where they can fish for panfish.
- C. Steve and Debbie Smith shared a map of **Logging Roads near South Crab Road**, that are on NHAL lands. Brought up the idea of further exploring these as a recreational amenity for our town. Mountain biking in the summer/fall and x-country skiing in the winter were a couple of ideas. Two contacts are Jeff Olson and Joe Fieweger, WDNR.
- D. Chuck Hayes attended a presentation by Quita Sheehan, Conservation Specialist with Vilas County titled "**Valuing Vilas County's Water Resources**". He suggested this may be an interesting presentation for the EDC to host for the community. The presentation is about the importance of protecting our waters, and explores how closely our waters are to the economics of the area.

V. **Next Meeting** - Tues., March 27 2:30pm.

**VI. Adjournment** - Chuck made a motion to adjourn. Mary second. All aye. Meeting adjourned at 3:45pm.

**Town of Presque Isle  
Economic Development Committee Minutes  
Tues. 3.27.18 Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bonnie Byrnes at 2:01pm. Present were committee members: Bonnie Byrnes, Brenda Dyre, Beth Marohn, Mary Watkins, Christine Wolter, Chamber Liaison Sarah Johnson, and Town Board Liaison Carl Wolter. Absent with notice: Chuck Hayes.

Guests present: residents Steve and Debbie Smith, Vilas EDC representative Barry McLean, and UW-Extension representative Chris Starks.

A motion to approve the agenda as presented by Christine, second by Beth. All aye. Motion passed. A motion to approve the 2.27.18 minutes by Christine, second by Beth. All aye. Motion passed. No chair remarks. Finance report shows 2018 balance at \$1225.81

**New Business:**

- A. The committee discussed where to store holiday decorations. Bonnie will contact Chairman Reckard to inquire as to town garage space. Brenda could provide storage if Town is unable. It was noted that next year, all on/in rental properties should be communicated with to assure acceptance of decorations. The committee will meet on Thursday, April 5th at 9am at Headwaters Real Estate to take down and store decorations. Bring large boxes, bags, and anything else to help.
- B. At the last meeting, it was suggested the Town/EDC look into established mountain bike/fat-tire bike trails on WDNR lands near South Crab Lake Road. Steve Smith agreed to reach out to WDNR to inquire as to process/possibility.
- C. At the last meeting, it was suggested the Town/EDC look into a couple of free-use kayaks and canoes at Sensebrenner Park. This was tabled, as the committee will wait to see what the Town Board does with the idea via the Recreational Immunity statute. Parks Liaison Cathy Weber noted the Parks 'N Rec is interested in something similar at Pipke Park. The committees may want to work together on this issue in the future, getting items donated, etc.
- D. At the last meeting, it was suggested the EDC sponsor a program for the community from Quita Sheehan, Vilas County Land & Water Conservation Department "Valuing Vilas County's Water Resources." Quita is available and interested, and puts on at no charge. She asked for potential times/days. The committee suggested June 5th or 6th at 3pm. Sarah will reach out to check on her availability, as well as on community room availability. Bonnie suggested the committee provide light refreshments.

**Old Business:**

**A. Downtown Planning:**

- A. The contract with Ayres & Associates, and \$10,000 of Room Tax, was approved by the Town Board at the March 1, 2018 meeting. Following the meeting and prior to sending off signed contract and payment, Chairman Reckard sent the contract to the Town lawyer for review. He reported the

lawyer has some issues with the contract, although he did not yet know what these were. He indicated he would let our committee know. Town Liaison Carl Wolter will follow up on this item at the next Town board meeting on April 5th if we haven't heard back yet. The committee is hoping for quick action on this so the timeline for the work with Ayres can be set, and the public can be notified of input opportunities. The hopeful timeline is April-June or May-July.

Assuming all to move forward, the committee discussed the development of an ad hoc stakeholder committee. Town residents Steve Smith and John MacLean will serve, as will EDC members Bonnie Byrnes, Christine Wolter, Sarah Johnson, and Mary Watkins; Town Board liaison Carl Wolters; and Vilas EDC representative Barry McLean. It was noted a member from Parks 'N Rec should also be invited. Sarah will send out an invitation to Chair Barofsky.

- B. Additional funds are due Ayres for the contract, in the amount of \$1338. This exceeds what is currently available in the EDC budget. The committee will raise the additional funding over the coming months. Mary offered to contact Trigs about possible brat stand sales.

- B. Connect Communities Program: The EDC would like to introduce the [Connect Communities](#) program to the Town for their consideration/approval. There are two application times: Spring and Fall and an application along with a \$200 fee would need to be submitted. The EDC would provide funding for the \$200, with a private donation to be graciously provided by Steve and Debbie Smith. Boulder Junction and Manitowish Waters are "Connect Communities", and Land O Lakes is considering it. Reports from Boulder Junction are that it is a worthwhile program, and that it provides positive networking and greater access and knowledge of funding opportunities. Chris shared the survey Boulder Junction sent to their residents to gain more insight into what their community needs/wants and also had the results which she will send out to the committee as an FYI. Commitments for the program include two individuals within the community to attend webinars (for which the EDC would assure attendance), along with an annual report. Chris made a motion to recommend the Town of Presque Isle apply to become a Connect Community, with the \$200 fee covered via the EDC, and with the EDC to fill out the application on behalf of the Town with the Town as final signatory. Brenda seconded. All aye. Motion passed. Chris volunteered to be the EDC representative to speak at the next meeting as she has done the lion's share of the work and research on this program. She will also pass along the application, once received, for the Town Board's review. Sarah will contact Marshall/Lorine about getting onto the 4/5 Town Board agenda.

#### C. Broadband

- A. Broadband Forward Community: this was presented to the Town Board (it is a designation that shows the Town wants to work towards improved broadband). There is no fee. This issue was referred to the Zoning Committee and will be back on the Town Board agenda at the April 5 meeting.
- B. Survey Print-Insertion Costs: the committee supports the expenditure of ~\$225 to print and place a half-page survey in all taxpayer's mailboxes. Final cost will be presented at the next meeting. This will be included in the Chamber's early

May mailing for return by late May. The results will help to identify needs, and potentially to support future grant funding.

C. Broadband survey questions were reviewed and all support them as presented:

**Town of Presque Isle**

**Economic Development Committee Broadband Survey**

*Return to PO Box 130, Presque Isle, WI 54557 by May 31, 2018*

1. Do you have internet service in Presque Isle? Y/N If so, through what provider? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Are you satisfied with your available connection speed? Y/N
3. What is the fastest speed available to your location? Note: if you're unsure, your provider can supply that information. \_\_\_\_\_ Mbps
4. *For Centurylink customers only*, has your service been upgraded this year? Y/N Are you satisfied with the upgrade? Y/N Why/not? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. If another service becomes available, would you consider changing providers? Y/N
6. Are you interested in seasonal service packages (e.g., summer-only service)? Y/N

While we don't need names, we are requesting locations. Please provide the road your home or business resides on. The more specific, the better (i.e. fire number or a nearby intersection). All information will be kept confidential, and shared with a prospective internet provider for assessment purposes only. Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you own more than 4-5 acres of land, and would you be willing to consider hosting a tower in order to bring wireless internet service into your area? Y/N If so, please provide your name, address, and contact on the reverse so your property can be assessed for usability.

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D. Panfish Project Update: We received an unfavorable call from WNDR Secretary Meyer, but he indicated he was still working on it. Chamber Director Scott McPherson and Bonnie will follow-up on this. The fish are to be taken out in May and still need a home. We would like to understand exactly where the hold-up with the Department of Agriculture is. It was questioned whether this could be pursued in future years (yes), and whether another lake to place the fish had since been identified (no committee members believed this to be the case).

Public Comments: Chris Starks suggested we get in touch with Joe Lawniczak from WEDC regarding the downtown planning project, as a resource. He also reported on a survey/grant centered around Eagle River area and noted that business owners are recognizing workforce to be one of the greatest issues for business success. He also noted there is job growth in housekeeping and food service. Also discussed was costs of living as it relates to the job incomes available from hospitality jobs.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 24 at 2:30pm.

Adjournment: Beth made a motion to adjourn at 3:20pm. Mary seconded. All aye.  
Meeting adjourned.

## **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.

## Town of Presque Isle EDC Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 21, 2019 @ 2:30 p.m.

Location: Town Board Room

*A quorum of the Board of Supervisors of the Town of Presque Isle may be present at a meeting of the EDC committee. No deliberation will occur and no action will be taken by the Town Board at this meeting.*

- I. Call to order-  
The meeting was called to order by Bonnie Byrnes, Chairperson, @ 3:05 p.m. due to previous joint meeting the Parks and Rec. committee. Other Committee members present: Brenda Dyre, Mary Watkins, Chris Wolter, and Carl Wolter, Town Supervisor and EDC liaison. Scott McPherson-PI Chamber, Beth Marohn, and Chuck Hayes were absent with prior notification.
- II. Recognition of Guests: Steve Smith, Pete Cober, & Jeannie Klingemeyer
- III. Approval of Agenda with amendment (per Bonnie) made by Chris, seconded by Mary.
- IV. Changes to April 30, 2019 Minutes, B. 2, to state that the committee will seek a legal walking easement, after clearing with the town board. Approval was made by Brenda and seconded by Chris.
- V. Chair Remarks: None
- VI. Finance Report: Balance remains the same, per Mary W. with deposits pending. Lorine, Town Clerk, is on vacation, so Mary was unable to submit funds yet.
- VII New Business:
  - A . Update on Panfish Permit and Acquisition
    1. Steve Smith reported that Lower Pipke Pond was stocked on May 15<sup>th</sup> with 750 Bluegill and 250 Bass. Photos were taken and an article will be submitted to the Lakeland Times. Steve Smith was commended and thanked for a doing a fine job and seeing completion of this most awaited town project! Steve reported the final cost of the fish was \$2,022. 50.
    2. Suggestion was made that Pipke Park Pond now be designated as an urban fishing pond and we'll need to determine "bag limits". The DNR has been contacted as to how to proceed with posting the bag limits. Currently, additional public fishing kiosks need updating. Pete Cober of the Parks and Rec. Committee has taken photos and compiled a list of the current township boat landing kiosks. The Parks and Rec. committee will work on this project along with the DNR.

B. Pipke Park Access Requests

1. Reiterated that the township recommend to town board that a legal walking easment, be drafter after landowner permission is granted.

C. Town Board Meeting Recap

1. Bonnie reported on her presentation to the town board about acquiring 2-3 lots North of the Antique Shop was recommended by Ayers and Associates in the Downtown Master Plan. Marshall Reckard, Town Supervisor, has suggested that perhaps another town meeting be held This matter was discussed at the Annual meeting on April 16, with nearly unanimous agreement by the voters, to bring the request to the town board. Also, the town board would like more specific figures on price. Steve Smith reported that the Realtor handling the property has asked For interested parties to "Submit a Price".

2. Chris will contact Lorine to get on the Town Board meeting agenda For June 6, 2019. We will keep this project moving forward.

D. Yacht Club on the Market

1. Bonnie reported about the Yacht Club, being on the market now.

VII. Old Business:

A. Next Step in Land Acquisition

1. Chris will notify Lorine that we want to be on the June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Town Board agenda. Bonnie will seek a Land evaluation of the vacant property.

B. Parks and Rec. 5 Year Plan was skipped as it's been approved by EDC.

C. Report/Update on town signage at the Town Board meeting. Full approval was given by the town board

D. Broadband and Community forward- On June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the Zoning Committee will meet with Sonic Net the request by voters (via survey) for better broadband services.

IX Public Comment- Steve Smith reported that no meeting has been set up yet to survey the Bike Project on the Forestry Land. .

X. Adjournment and Next Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 30, 2019 @ 2:30 p.m. due to scheduling conflicts during the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. Moved by Brenda and seconded by Mary.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Wolter, Secretary

Town of Presque Isle: EDC Meeting Minutes  
June 26, 2018 @ 2:30 p.m.  
Location: Town Board Room

The meeting was called to order by Sarah Johnson, presiding for Bonnie Byrnes, Chair person, @ 2:35 p.m. Committee member present are Chuck Hayes, Beth Marohn, Sarah Johnson, Bonnie Byrnes, and Chris Wolter. Brenda Dyre and Mary Watkins were absent with prior notice. Guests present: Steve and Debbie Smith, Chris Stark, from Vilas Co. EDC, and Barbara Peck.

A motion to accept the agenda was made by Chris Wolter and seconded by Chuck Hayes. A motion to accept the minutes was put on hold pending Bonnie Byrnes submission of a section for the minutes.

Chair Remarks: None

Finance Report: Sarah noted that after the Broadband survey was mailed out, the EDC account balance is \$956.81. The Broadband survey mailing was \$269.99.

New Business: none

Old Business:

Downtown Planning;

- A. Ayres and Associates Timeline: No confirmation of a signed contract between the Town of Presque Isle and Ayres and Associates as yet. Chuck reported we are waiting for Lorine Walters, PI Clerk, and hopefully will have a copy soon. A July meeting will be scheduled between the Stakeholders representing the Town of Presque Isle and meet with Ayres and Associates when we get a copy of the signed contract. Sarah will check with the Parks and Recreation committee to see if they would like to include a representative. Carl Wolter will act as a volunteer on the Stakeholders Committee. The Stakeholders committee will meet with Ayres and Associates monthly for three months. Members of the Stakeholders group From the EDC committee are: Chris Wolter, Mary Watkins, Bonnie Byrnes, Sarah Johnson. Steve Smith and John McLean are at-large community representatives. Barry McLeane, Vilas EDC, would also like to serve. We will need to come up with an additional ~\$400.00 to fulfill the contract costs.
  - B. Chuck reported the County Highway Committee is postponing any work on Highway B until 2019. The idea is the do all of Highway B in one year and save the county \$500,000.00. The highway reconstruction will be handled with bonding and the Federal Dept. of Transportation is giving the states money for roads. 30% of this money has to go to rural areas. Also, there's a competitive grant available which the engineering firm could apply by July 19, 2018. The Highway committee meets mid-June and more to be learned at this meeting. Ayres could work with the county.
1. Connect Communities
    - A. Tabled for now. It will be moved back on the agenda to August/September 2018 EDC meeting (October 2018 grant request is due) or possibly spring of 2019.
  2. Broadband Forward Communities

- A. The PI zoning committee is working on an ordinance to designate Presque Isle as a Broadband Forward Community.
  - B. Early Broadband Survey results: about 200 forms were completed and returned. Results have not been tabulated and whom to get assistance from for this was discussed, with further discussion at the next meeting. Sonic Net would like to write the grant and have it ready to submit by the town by January 2019. It was felt that anyone who could use Excel Spreadsheet could help tabulate results.
3. Panfish Project Update
- A. Per state Community Fishing Guidelines, there's assistance with signage, we can choose fishing seasons, and there are no regulations. Emphasis is usually put on children, disabled, and elderly persons.
  - B. Steve Smith – (will) get together with a local DNR person to get a plan. Transporting the panfish from another lake isn't going to work in Wisconsin. Steve researched prices with a fish hatchery in Watersmeet, MI. The cost for 100 fingerling Bluegills is \$2,775.00 + \$104. 15 for delivery fee. This would fill about a 15-acre body of water. The prices went up from there. Chuck recommended we ask for contributions from Town organizations and also there is a Knowles-Nelson Grant that may be available. Discussion ensued whether there is a Land Use agreement for the North Pond. Carl W. will follow up with Lorine about the Land Use agreement with the DNR for the North Pond. Keep this issue on the agenda.
4. Canoes and Kayaks at Sensenbrenner Park
- A. Barb Peck from the Park and Rec. Committee reported they have been working on getting donations of canoes, kayaks, and rowboats for people to use for access to the lower pond. They have also researched price of racks for canoes and kayaks and they are quite expensive (\$500-1000.00), so will look for people (woodworkers) to donate their time to make these. The Parks and Rec. committee will ask to be on the June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the PI town board regarding this issue.
5. Bike Trails
- A. Steve Smith reported he received a response from Sarah Pierce re: whether these trails are available for mountain biking. She reported Mtn. biking cannot be the sole purpose and the signage must not reflect that. It has been done in other state forest areas (logging roads). This project could be promoted through the PI Chamber with a trail map, etc. Trails should be checked for obstacles, need adequate parking (3-5 spots). Steve will get a group together to inspect trails.
6. Valuing Vilas Co. Water program-6/5 @ 3 p.m. with Marquita Sheehan
- A. The program is a go and various committee members volunteered to donate coffee, water, and snacks. Word of this program will be spread by the Library, Newspaper, and the Chamber of Commerce.

## II Pubic comment

- 1. Per Steve Smith-he requested that "actionable Items" for stocking the fish ponds and a master plan be on the next agenda (?) Chris Stark-Vilas Co. EDC reported he is

impressed with the action to date that the PI EDC has accomplished and projects that are going forward

III. Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 26, @ 2:30 p.m.

IV. Motion to adjourn made by Beth M. and seconded by Chris W.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Wolter

## **Town of Presque Isle Economic Development Committee**

Ad Hoc Downtown Planning Meeting Agenda

Thurs. 7.12.18 4PM

Location: Community Center Room

The meeting was called to order at 4:05pm by Chair Bonnie Byrnes. Ad hoc committee members present included: Bonnie Byrnes, Sarah Johnson, Mary Watkins, Chris Wolter, Carl Wolter, John MacLean, Steve Smith, Barb Peck, Scott McPherson. Guests in the audience: Peggy Johnson Wiessner and Debbie Smith. Honorary/presenting guests were: Robert Stein and Blake Theisen - Planning/Landscape Architects - from Ayres Associates Madison office.

Mary made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Scott seconded. All aye.

The meeting was then turned over to Ayres Associates representatives for an introduction and brainstorming/visioning session on Presque Isle's downtown improvements. The work with the County was noted as up in the air, as it has recently been reported that the timeline has been pushed back as the County tries to work on funding. Ayres and Associates will connect with the highway commissioner on this as the goal is to potentially run some of the improvement projects in parallel with the Main Street repave. Ayres Associates will prepare wrap-up notes from the meeting and present to the committee. No action taken.

There was no additional public comment.

The next meeting will take place sometime in August, with a public feedback/input component.

Bonnie adjourned the meeting at 6pm.

## Town of Presque Isle EDC Committee Meeting Minutes

July 31, 2018 @ 2:30 p.m.

Location: Town Board Room

The meeting was called to order by Sarah Johnson, presiding for Bonnie Byrnes, Chairperson, @ 2:35 p.m. Committee member present are Chuck Hayes, Sarah Johnson, Mary Watkins, Brenda Dyre, and Chris Wolter. Beth Marohn and Bonnie Byrnes were absent with prior notice. Guests present: Steven Smith, Chris Stark from Vilas Co. Extension, and Scott McPherson from the PI chamber.

A motion to accept the agenda was made by Chuck and seconded by Mary Watkins.

A motion to accept the minutes from the April 24, 2018 and June 26, 2018 was made by Chuck and seconded by Mary. Also, a motion to accept the minutes from the July 12, 2018 ad hoc meeting with Ayers and Associates was made by Chuck and seconded by Mary

Chair Remarks: That Bonnie was absent with prior notice and Sarah would be filling in for her.

Finance Report: Sarah noted that after the Broad Band survey was mailed out recently, the EDC account balance is \$956.81 and there was no recent activity.

New Business: none

Old Business:

1. Downtown Planning;

- A. Ayres and Associates Timeline-The first ad hoc meeting was July 12, 2018.

All of the appointed committee members attended with community appointed members Steve Smith and John McLean, also present. Scott McPherson represented the PI Chamber and Carl Wolter represented the PI Town Board.

- B. The next meeting with Ayers and associates is scheduled for Thursday, August 14, 2018 @ 4:00 p.m. @ the PI Board room with interested community members invited. Ayers will be presenting their tentative plan after considering the input of the ad hoc board. The Appointed ad hoc board will meet afterwards at 5:00 p.m. Discussion was held about what the best means of communicating the upcoming meeting would be. All members and Scott from the Chamber will assist with disseminating the information.

- C. Remainder of the funding for the Ayers consultation is ~\$400.00 of which Steve Smith reported he and Debbie will donate \$200.00 to the cause. The money is needed by the end of August 2018. Baked items will be available with a donation jar at the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Brenda said her niece and Sarah's daughter would have lemonade "stand" at the meeting also.
- 2. Broadband
    - A. Broadband Forward Community: Cathy Weber shared in prior communications that the PI Zoning committee had table this issue and it will be dropped for now as the Broadband designation is not necessary to move forward with grant applications.
    - B. Survey Print-Tabulate Results: Sarah recommended the work group be tabled till the September meeting. A work group will be appointed to tabulate the results and have them available for Sonic Net by November 2018. Sonic Net needs these results for writing broadband grant for PI.
- 3. Panfish Project Update
    - A. Community fishing establishment: the DNR would assist with establishing Pipke Park pond as a Community Fishing pond as it meets the requirement of less than 25 acres. The town and the Legion have to be in agreement before it can move forward. This would entitle us to get free signage and establish program goals. Several options for operations are available to include the recommendation about how many fish can be caught in a day, who can fish, how long the season runs, etc. Discussion about whether a fishing license would be necessary was held. The comm fishing designation will be shared with the Parks and Rec. committee.
    - B. Stocking updates: Steve Smith reported he discussed stocking panfish with the people from Watersmeet, MI and the stocking should occur in the fall (after the loons have left).
      - a. Discussion of the cost of stocking the pond and where the \$ will come from ensued. Among ideas was for local PI groups to donate funding for this project. Chuck suggested speaking with Carl Watras who is a local (retired) DNR person about water quality of the pond if more info is needed after communications with current DNR fisheries biologist.
    - C. Bike Trails: Steve Smith reported that he's been in contact with Sara Pearson from WI DNR and the Master Plan would need to include a parking lot and would need to designate mountain bike trails if we wanted to pursue this. Currently, they are multi-use logging roads for motorized and non-motorized, and are utilized for hunting. Further information is

needed, specifically regarding the nature of the trails as well as assuring hunting access remains during spring/fall. A fall field-trip with interested group members (before grouse hunting) will be planned.

4. Canoes/Kayaks at Sensenbrenner Park: The town board approved 3 pc of equipment be available at Pipke Park, for public use. The town also recommended getting a person to be in charge and manage those pieces of equipment. For now, Sensenbrenner Park equipment will be on hold.

## II Pubic comment

1. Chris Stark from Vilas Co. Extension reported he was pleased with the direction the PI EDC committee is taking.
2. Steve Smith reported that he attended a Crab Lake Association meeting and there is concern among that group about the viability of PI township. Steve recommended the EDC committee present at other PI Lakes Association meetings to bring awareness of issues and answer questions.

III. The next meeting will be held August 28, 2018 @ 2:30 p.m.

IV. Motion to adjourn made by Brenda and seconded by Mary.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Wolter

**Town of Presque Isle**  
**Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Tues. 8.28.18 2:30PM**  
**Location: Town Board Room**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bonnie Byrnes at 2:30pm. All committee members and liasons were present. Steve and Debbie Smith were there as interested citizens. A motion to approve the agenda as presented by Chuck Hayes, second by Chris Wolter. All aye. A motion was made to approve the July minutes by Chris Wolter, second by Sarah Johnson. All aye.

Chair Remarks: Bonnie noted that the ad hoc committee working with Ayres will meet following this meeting to work on concerted feedback to Ayres. There is also a link on the Town and Chamber's website for people to provide input.

Finance Report (Balance = \$1063.31): Collected \$106.50 in bake sale donations. \$200 more committed for \$1263.31 total. Remainder due Ayres = \$74.69 (need to collect this amount still). Bonnie noted that an anonymous donor will cover the remainder due; Bonnie will let the donor know to submit to Lorine with memo: EDC downtown planning.

New Business: None.

Old Business

A. Downtown Planning

A. Highway B Update. The earliest date for Main Street appears to be 2020 and it could be later depending on federal funds (24ft) versus county/state funds (22ft). The highway committee expects to hear back on grant in December which will provide more concrete information on timeline.

B. Ayres Timeline/Review. The committee is providing feedback in early September and expect Ayres to come back for final presentation end of September/early October.

B. Remainder Funding (\$1338): See finance report. All taken care of.

B. Broadband

A. Broadband Forward Community. This was previously reported as a no go from the town but recent information suggests the zoning committee may still be considering this and/or are making a recommendation to the town in favor of the designation. It is not necessary for a grant, but would likely be helpful. Cathy noted that there are still people in town in the midst of upgrades. It was noted that the grant will not be pursued unless there are enough citizens that can be served that are underserved and/or are interested in a new provider. This would be determined by SonicNet.

B. Survey Print-Tabulate Results. Brenda, Bonnie and Beth will work on the tabulating the results and will work on over the coming month(s).

C. Panfish Project Update

A. Community Fishing Establishment: Sarah will write up information on the designation to share with Parks 'N Rec. EDC would like to make recommendation to town in favor of this following P 'N R sharing, the requirements would follow standard DNR limits and seasons. Cathy noted that the Beautification committee has money to assist with pond planings, wildlife and fish habitat, that can be a part of future pond plans.

B. Stocking Updates: Steve Smith reported that the Watersmeet hatchery has stocked Wisconsin waters before and so is likely acceptable for stocking. The estimated costs as presented were ~\$3,000 but you can do any amount you want as there is no minimum. Brenda offered to pick up money jars (12) and Bonnie will do signs for donation collection for "Stock the Community Fishing Pond" fund. Will try and get out by this coming Labor Day weekend.

#### D. Bike Trails

A. S. Crab Lake: tabled until interested committee members can make a site visit this fall.

B. Heart of Vilas Connection: The Wilderness Pedalers have feasibility studies for Hwy W to P, Hwy P to school, and Hwy W to WinMan. The prelim costs of Town to School are \$7.3 million; from Town to WinMan \$9.3 million. The group has the necessary town, county permissions to perform studies and are working on major donor outreach as well as landowner permissions -- both of which are essential for the project to move forward.

Public Comment: None.

Next Meeting - Tuesday, September 25 2:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.

## **Town of Presque Isle - EDC Ad Hoc Meeting**

The Town of Presque Isle's Economic Development Committee hosted an ad hoc meeting on Wednesday, November 7th @ 5pm. The meeting was called or order by Bonnie Byrnes, EDC Chair. Audience guests were recognized. Committee members present included Bonnie Byrnes, Sarah Johnson, John MacLean, Steve Smith, Christine Wolter, and Town Liaison Carl Wolter. Members absent with notice included: Mary Watkins. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Christine, seconded by Sarah. All in favor.

Discussion on the Downtown Plan draft presented by Ayres occurred. It was noted this concept was also presented to the public previously and that feedback was provided Ayres at that meeting. The intent of this meeting was to provide collective feedback from the committee, taking into account comments from the public during the past meeting as well as in follow-up.

After discussion amongst the committee and input from citizens, the three items for priority were identified and will be sent to Ayres for adjustment:

1. Signage content/program,
2. Request for a visual of parking and an inventory of spaces lost as well as a plan for recouping these, and
3. Importance/adjustments to view of Pipke Park from Main Street.

In addition, the committee would like to see less process/irrelevant images in the plan and instead a focus on desired appearance and changes.

Sarah will send comments to Ayres following feedback from a citizen group that will meet to focus in on signage content and wayfinding.

The meeting was adjourned by Bonnie at 6:20p.m.