



# *City of Presque Isle, Maine*

## *Planning Board Minutes*

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### *Sargent Family Community Center*

*November 17, 2022 @ 6:00 PM*

**Planning Board Members Present:** Bruce Roope; Chairman, Ward Gerow; Vice-Chairman, Jayne Farrin, Sean Nordenhold (6:02 PM), & David Perry

**Planning Board Members Absent:** Stacey Walton & Brandon McDonald (Alternate)

**Others Present:** Galen Weibley, Director of Economic & Community Development; & Tim St. Peter, Code Enforcement Officer; Lewis Cousins, City Assessor; Adam Cyr, Kammie Ferguson, Jason Hafford, Hannah James, Jamie James, Carolyn Lyford, Jim Lyford, Barbara Martinez, Kathryn Murchison, Rachel Murchison, Connie Wedge & Maurice Womack

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Roope called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

*Sean Nordenhold Arrived*

**2. Minutes Approval:** Review and approve draft minutes from October 20, 2022.

A motion by *Ward Gerow*, second by *Jayne Farrin* to approve the revised October 20, 2022 Planning Board Meeting Minutes. **Vote – unanimous 5-0**

**3. Public Hearing: Chapter 63 Lodging Establishment License Ordinance**

A Motion by *Ward Gerow* and second by *Jayne Farrin* to open the public hearing to receive comment regarding the proposed draft Chapter 63: Lodging Establishment License Ordinance.

**Vote – unanimous 5-0**

Adam Cyr representing the Presque Isle Hampton Inn (768 Main Street) mentioned his support for the proposed amendments made by the owners of the Hampton Inn.

Jamie James & Kammie Ferguson representing the Presque Isle Inn and Convention Center (116 Main Street) also stated their support for the proposed amendments proposed by the hospitality industry.

No other public comments were received. Chairman Roope closed the public hearing at 6:05 PM. Galen Weibley provided a summary of the proposed changes by the hospitality industry, City

staff, Planning Board & City Councilors.

***Public Hearing (Chapter 63: Lodging Establishment License (cont.)***

A motion by **Ward Gerow**, second by **David Perry** to recommend to the City Council approving the proposed changes to Chapter 63: Lodging Establishment License Ordinance as submitted in the packet. **Vote – unanimous 5-0**

**4. Citizen Comments**

Chairman Roope opened the floor to receive comments from the public regarding any City related matter. He overviewed the rules for addressing the Board including a limit of 2-minutes per resident and respectful and courteous behavior directed to the Planning Board.

**Jim Lyford (30 Braden Street):** Mr. Lyford addressed the Planning Board in opposition to the keeping of chickens and livestock in residential areas. Mr. Lyford stated Caribou and Fort Fairfield declined to allow livestock in their residential areas and he feels Presque Isle should do the same.

**Hannah James (265 State Street):** Ms. James addressed the Planning Board in support of changes to the ordinance although feels additional changes are missing from the amendment to Chapter 16 of the City's Land Use Code.

**Connie Wedge (31 Braden Street):** Ms. Wedge stated she has a 5-year old son who plays outside and dogs on the property. This summer was the worst year for mice on the property given her neighbor brought chickens on their property. She is concerned with her animals ingesting rodents or her son picking up dead mice. She believes people are negligent in taking care of livestock from her personal experiences and does not support allowing livestock to be kept in residential areas.

**Barbara Martinez (57 Parsons Street):** Ms. Martinez addressed the Planning Board stating that she understands Bangor, Lewiston and other Maine towns allow livestock in their residential areas but she feels they do not have to live with the consequences in Northern Maine which is different then the areas she referenced. She cited reasons for denial because Caribou and Fort Fairfield also have denied requests by residents to allow livestock in residential areas. She is concerned with attracting skunks to residential areas and citing seals dying from bird flu as unintended consequences when communities allow livestock in residential areas.

**Rachel Murchison (65 Dyer Street):** Ms. Murchison shared with the Planning Board her story of owning chickens in a residential neighborhood. She and her family asked permission of neighbors to make sure they were fine with the chickens. She uses pine shavings and remove the bedding/manure weekly to prevent odor and flies. Ms. Murchison also stated Portland, Maine allows for livestock in their downtown as does Kansas City.

**Carolyn Lyford (30 Braden Street):** Ms. Lyford shared her bad experience with her neighbor keeping chickens indoors. There was odor and manure issues which posed a health threat to her and her family.

*Citizen Comments (cont.)*

**Kathryn Murchison (65 Dyer Street):** Miss Murchison wanted to address the Planning Board as a 15-year old that loves her chickens. She wanted to let the board know that she has learned a lot from the keeping of livestock and hopes she can keep them in the future. Miss Murchison also mentioned that dogs make more noise than chickens.

Chairman Roope closed public comments after all in attendance had a chance to address the Board.

**5. Review of Non-Commercial Keeping of Livestock:** Overview of proposed amendment to Chapter 16 of the City's Land Use Code

Galen Weibley provided an overview of the history and how we made it to this point. Mr. Weibley shared with the members the draft changes that was the direction of the Planning Board. There were questions from the board regarding the Animal Unit density calculation that was clarified by staff. Mr. Weibley provided the rationale for prohibiting manure compost in residential areas and requirement to remove manure with trash service. The Planning Board inquired if sanitation will accept manure as part of trash which staff countered it is no different that canine and feline waste or diaper from baby which are done in residential neighborhoods.

Ward Gerow inquired if we should prohibit the keeping of turkeys in residential areas. David Perry also proposed adding geese to the list of prohibited species. The Planning Board agreed it was time to receive feedback from the public to the proposed draft amendments to be included into the Chapter 16 – Land Use Code reforms.

A motion by **Ward Gerow**, second by **Jayne Farrin** to hold a public hearing regarding the proposed changes at the December 15, 2022 Planning Board meeting and to receive proposed amendments by the public or board to be submitted by December 5, 2022. **Vote – unanimous 5-0**

**6. Appointments to the Planning Board – Review applications for two unfilled seats**

Mr. Weibley offered an overview the current process to fill vacancies on advisory boards. Historically, the department head responsible for staffing a committee would interview perspective applicants before forwarding their application for appointment by the City Council. Recently the City received three applications (Rachel Murchison, Harold Stewart II & Richard Engels) when there are only two seats open. Mr. Weibley stated this is a unique circumstance and would prefer the Planning Board's thoughts on the applications. He also mentioned Mr. Stewart requested his application be withdrawn since he was recently elected to minority leader in the Maine State Senate. It was decided to send both applications to the City Council (Murchison voting member and Engels as alternate).

Jayne Farrin stated for the record that she disagrees with the current selection process and feels

that the City Council should interview and decide who is appointed on the various boards and not department staff.

**7. Adjournment of the Planning Board Meeting**

A motion by *David Perry*, second by *Bruce Roope* to adjourn the Planning Board Meeting at 7:00 PM. **Vote – unanimous 5-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Galen Weibley

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**Planning Board Members**  
**Bruce Roope, Chair, Ward Gerow, Vice-Chair**  
**Jayne Farrin, Dave Perry, Brandon McDonald,**  
**Sean Nordenhold, & Stacey Walton**