



City of Presque Isle, Maine

Planning Board Minutes

City of Presque Isle, 12 Second Street, Presque Isle, Maine 04769
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Presque Isle City Hall- Council Chambers

May 18, 2023 @ 6:00 PM

Planning Board Members Present: Bruce Roope (Chairman), Ward Gerow (Vice-Chairman), Jayne Farrin, Sean Nordenhold, & Richard Engels (Alternate)

Planning Board Members Absent: Rachel Murchison, David Perry, & Stacey Walton

Others Present: Galen Weibley, Director of Economic & Community Development; Tim St. Peter, Code Officer;

1. Call to Order

Chairman Roope called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. Mr. Engels was made a voting member for the meeting given the absence of three members. Total members present five voting members.

2. Minutes Approval: Review and approve draft minutes from April 20 & May 4, 2023.

A motion by *Richard Engels*, second by *Sean Nordenhold* to approve the April 20 & May 4, 2023 Planning Board Meeting Minutes. **Vote – unanimous 5-0**

3. Citizen Comments: None

4. Planning Board Ordinance Amendment Discussion

Mr. Weibley briefed the Planning Board regarding the proposed change amendments to the Planning Board Ordinance as it relates to meeting rules and decorum. *Mr. Engels* suggested to mention that the board may adopt rules as needed within the ordinance by separate the specific language in the current draft as the by-laws. There was consensus from the members present that this approach would be the best policy that will avoid constant public hearings and sending the changes to the City Council for ratification. Other changes are to make all amendments by majority of members present instead of 2/3 (66%) voting threshold, update language regarding citizen engagement, and make the interaction less formal between member engagement. Mr. Weibley stated he will make the proposed changes for consideration at the June 15th general meeting of the Planning Board.

5. Department Updates

Mr. Weibley provided an update regarding economic activity that is happening in Presque Isle and suggested the Board consider that changes they would like to see in future solar sites as some members of the public are noticing the placement of sites on agricultural soils of prime importance. This may be a discussion for a future Land Use Code amendment.

6. Adjournment of the Planning Board Meeting

A motion by *Richard Engels*, second by *Sean Nordenhold* to adjourn the Planning Board Meeting at 7:31 PM. **Vote – unanimous 5-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Galen Weibley

Planning Board Members
Bruce Roope (Chair), Ward Gerow (Vice-Chair),
Jayne Farrin, Rachel Murchison, Sean Nordenhold,
Dave Perry, Stacey Walton, & Richard Engels (Alternate)