PRESQUE ISLE TOWNSHIP
Planning Commission Minutes
September 8, 2026 - 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order	6:00 p.m.
Pledge of Allegiance	Pledge was recited.
Roll Call	Present: Chair Stacy Holmén, Vice Chair Michael Cermak, Board Liaison Jennifer Wieczorkowski, and member Tom Ludwig. Township Supervisor and Zoning Administrator Steve Lang was also in attendance. Absent: Secretary Cynthia Paavola and member Richard Lefevre.
Approval of Agenda	A motion was made by Ludwig, supported by Cermak, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
Approval of 8/3/26 Minutes	A motion was made by Wieczorkowski, supported by Cermak, to approve the August 3, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
Comments from the Audience (3-min. limit)	1. Krakow Township Planning Commission Chair Chad Ennest spoke in support of a bubbler ordinance. 2. East Grand Lake Fire Department Chief Ron Fournier addressed the Planning Commission regarding the differences between aerators and bubblers.
Correspondence	None.
Unfinished Business **a. Lake Bubblers** **b. Tree Ordinance/Stewardship Guide** **c. Accessory Structures**	<u>Lake Bubblers:</u> Holmén noted that the Grand Lake Sportsmen's Club (GLSC) had requested that the Planning Commissions of both Presque Isle Township and Krakow Township address safety concerns associated with bubblers and aerators on Grand Lake. A sample ordinance prepared by the GLSC, which would prohibit the use of bubblers and aerators on Grand Lake, was also submitted for review.

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The Commission considered the proposed ban, including enforcement and potential permitting, and reached consensus that any ordinance adopted should apply to all public inland lakes within Presque Isle Township. Holmén indicated that most townships with similar ordinances prohibit bubblers outright, with limited exceptions for marinas with permanent docks. She noted that such exceptions did not appear necessary for Grand Lake, Lake Esau, or Long Lake.

Jeff Duly, President of the GLSC, addressed the Commission and stated that the request was made in response to complaints from residents about an existing bubbler on Grand Lake. He noted that the bubbler creates an area of open water during the winter, restricting access to the ice from nearby properties and creating a potential hazard for ice fishermen and snowmobilers. East Grand Lake Fire Department Chief Ron Fournier also reported receiving calls from residents concerning the bubbler.

The Planning Commission considered next steps regarding the proposed ordinance and agreed that Lang would forward the sample ordinance and related materials to Township Attorney Tim Gulden for review and preparation of a draft ordinance. Commissioners were asked to provide any specific questions or concerns to Lang for inclusion in the materials submitted to Gulden. It was also noted that the draft would be presented to the Commission for further review at its October 5 meeting.

A motion was made by Holmén, supported by Cermak, to forward the sample ordinance and related materials to Township Attorney Tim Gulden for preparation of a draft ordinance prohibiting bubblers and aerators on public inland lakes within Presque Isle Township. The motion carried unanimously.

<u>Tree Ordinance and Stewardship Guide</u>: The Planning Commission next reviewed a proposed Tree Ordinance and accompanying Tree Stewardship Guide submitted by the Township Tree Committee. Holmén noted that the revised

ordinance provides for the protection of Township-owned trees but does not apply to privately owned trees. She stated that the ordinance was also reviewed by Township Facilities and Projects Manager Matt Bedard and Presque Isle County District Forester Jacob Grochowski, both of whom provided input during its revision. She stated that the goal of adopting the ordinance is to qualify as a Tree City USA, for which the ordinance is a requirement. She explained that the designation would demonstrate the Township's commitment to its trees, potentially benefit real estate values, and provide access to Tree City USA resources, including opportunities to purchase trees at discounted prices.

The Commissioners proposed the following revisions to the draft ordinance:

1. Listing all Township properties under the definition of "Public Property."
2. Changing all references to the Tree Committee's reporting body from the Board of Trustees to the Township Parks and Recreation Committee.
3. Including "education" among the ordinance's purposes in Section 1.
4. Revising the requirement that the ordinance be published in full to instead allow publication by summary.
5. Replacing all references to "public trees" with "Township trees."
6. Revising the wording of Section 8E, which provides that the Presque Isle Township Zoning Administrator, Township Supervisor, and other authorized Township officials and employees may administer and enforce the ordinance and issue municipal civil infraction citations, as some members found the provision confusing.

With no further discussion, a motion was made by Wieczorkowski, supported by Ludwig, to forward the proposed Tree Ordinance, incorporating the revisions made by the Planning Commission, to Township Attorney Tim

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Gulden for review and sign-off. The motion carried unanimously.

The Commission then briefly reviewed the proposed Tree Stewardship Guide. Wieczorkowski noted the Guide's length and agreed to provide it to the Board of Trustees so members would have time to review it before future consideration.

Accessory Structures: The Planning Commission continued its discussion of accessory structure regulations, including definitions, size limitations, lot coverage, and the number of structures permitted. Members agreed that the definition of an accessory structure should be clarified before further consideration of specific regulations. Lang agreed to provide examples from other townships for review at the next meeting.

New Business:

a. **Distribution of Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance**
b. **Data Centers**

Distribution of Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance: Holmén confirmed that members had received printed copies of the Presque Isle Township Zoning Ordinance and the Presque Isle Township Master Plan distributed by staff and requested that Commissioners bring their copies to future meetings for reference.

Wake Boats: Ludwig raised concerns about the effects of wake boats on inland lakes, including shoreline erosion and disturbance of lake bottoms and aquatic vegetation. Holmén offered to forward an article on the subject, and the Commission agreed to add wake boats to a future agenda for discussion.

Data Centers: The Commissioners agreed to postpone the Data Center discussion until the October 5 meeting.

Training: Holmén informed members of an upcoming Michigan Townships Association (MTA) regional meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2026. She noted that the in-person meeting will satisfy the Commissioners' annual continuing education requirement and that

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additional dates and locations are available for those unable to attend.

Reports:

a. Zoning Administrator – S. Lang	a. No report.
b. Board Liaison – J. Wieczorkowski	b. No report.
c. ZBA Liaison – C. Paavola	c. No report

Adjournment: 8:05 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, 10/5/26, at 6:00 p.m.