

**Approved Minutes Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee  
April 26, 2022 Meeting  
Pease Public Library Plymouth, NH**

**Members Present:**

**Ashland:** Kathleen DeWolfe

**Bridgewater:** Judy Faran

**Bristol:** Max Stamp

**Campton:** Suellen Skinner

**Holderness:** Carl Lehner

**New Hampton:**

**Plymouth:** Bill Bolton, Lisa Doner, Neil McIver

**Thornton:** Katri Gurney, Myrtle Lewis

**LRPC:**

**Guests Present: None**

Quorum established and meeting called to order by Bill Bolton at 6:35 PM.

1. Approval of minutes from our March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting with minor edits.
  - a. Suellen moved, Max seconded, unanimous approval.

Brief discussion on the replacement of Paige Wilson, who was the LRPC staff person assigned to PRLAC who left to take a position with NH DES. LRPC may assign Paige's replacement to our Committee. Additional brief discussion on the Pemi River Corridor Management Plan, and how we would likely proceed in going forward with the scope of work and funding.

2. Election of Officers. Slate of officers was voted on and the following individuals are now the PRLAC officers: Chair Judy Faran, Vice-Chair Sherrill Howard, Secretary Bill Bolton and the Treasurer will be the new LRPC staff person assigned to PRLAC.
  - a. Kathleen moved to accept the slate with a second by Suellen. Unanimous approval.
3. Farewell to Nisa Marks of NH DES. On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Nisa became the Watershed Coordinator of DES' Rivers and Lakes Program.
4. Membership update: John Gallagher received a letter from the Commissioner thanking him for his service. Russ and Neil need to be reappointed. Reached out to Woodstock town and discovered that the Town Manager of Lincoln responded to my invitation to join PRLAC and suggested that all 3 Select Board members join.
5. Follow-up on Thornton housing development and road construction across from Valley Brook Cottages on Route 3. Katri went to last week's Thornton Planning Board meeting and nothing was mentioned about the project. She then walked the property of the project area and contacted the town to discover that they are now burying the power line on the project property in advance to build out the project. The area going down towards the river has been clear-cut. Some concern was raised on the Thornton Planning Board requirements for developers. Neil McIver was going to find out who the developer is.
6. Permit Applications:
  - a. Irving Oil Holderness, NH - dispenser sump replacement. A sub-committee of PRLAC (Lisa, Barry, Myrtle, Larry Spencer and possibly Carl Lehner) will reach out to the

engineer and arrange for a site visit. Concern over the periodic flooding of this lowland area was expressed.

- b. 2022-00768: New home at Roma Drive in Thornton. Bill Bolton received the application on 3/31 which was right after our March meeting. Bill received a letter from DES stating project approval for the new home permit application on March 25. We were not given the chance to express our comments to the DES reviewer. Lisa made a motion to authorize the Chair to select a team for those permit applications that would require a response in advance of our next scheduled meetings. Neil seconded. Unanimous vote in favor and the motion passed. Judy Faran related her comments on a visit of the Roma Drive project.
  - c. 2022-00999 RR1: CULVERT REPLACEMENT OR REPAIR: state-owned railroad corridor in Thornton, NH at Mile Post P11.46 (Still on DES alerts). Myrtle responded to DES and the project engineer. Myrtle requested notice when DOT was going to start the project so that she can see their process.
7. Approval of PRLAC's bylaws:
- a. Changes to Article II, B. 2. to include insertion of "i.e" before the statement of "water quality, water quantity and aesthetic impact".
  - b. Article V, terms of officers to be extended to 2 years instead of 1.
  - c. Some discussion on quorum and attendance both in-person and virtually, but we resolved to leave the statement of members from 4 Pemi River corridor towns in attendance to constitute a quorum.
  - d. Tracie Sales provided a correction to our outdated use of "New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning". The correct name is now "Office of Strategic Initiatives within the NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs".
  - e. Suellen moved to adopt the PRLAC Bylaws as amended, Katri seconded and motion passed unanimously.
8. Other items...
- a. Received notification/application from Greg DiSanto regarding a Bridgewater project of minimal impact that would benefit the restoration of Woodman's Brook in Bridgewater. This 1,500 foot project would be on John Martin's property. The project design would slow the flow of Woodman Brook and reduce any sediment introduction into the Pemi and increase fish and invertebrate habitat.
  - b. Bylaws update discussion:
  - c. Announcement of the upcoming May 24<sup>th</sup> in-person Source Water Protection Conference at the Army National Training Complex in Pembroke, and a May 25<sup>th</sup> virtual event.
  - d. Tyson, Myrtle and Katri working with the Thornton Conservation Commission on a tree planting event along the Pemi and a tributary in Thornton during a mid-May event that will be hosted by the Merrimack River Watershed Council.
  - e. Max Stamp wondered if Eversource had responded to the transmission line crossovers. This was in reference to the concerns that Max described during our March meeting, where he specifically wondered why Eversource won't allow vegetation and 20' trees to grow from the pole to the river's edge and thus stabilize the river bank. He further stated that Eversource maintained a long-term practice of mowing to the river's edge. Since they hadn't yet responded to this inquiry, Myrtle will be contacting GZA to request a response.

- f. Max also discussed the imminent start-up of VRAP on May 10<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m. for the North Pemi group, and Max distributed the blank data sheets.
  - g. Lisa Doner provided an update on the Pemi Oxbow project. The state has finally released it to the Federal Park Service, and it is now being evaluated for compliance. Plymouth Athletic Club has rejected an offer by the Pemi Oxbow group for some property desired by the Oxbow group and accepted an offer by some other agent. Although landlocked and not developable, the new owner can still do something destructive to this sensitive property.
9. **Adjourn:** Suellen moved to adjourn, Neil seconded. No discussion, all in favor at 8:25 pm