

Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee
February 23, 2016 at Pease Public Library
Plymouth, New Hampshire
Minutes

Members Present:

Max Stamp (Bristol); Dan Paradis (Bristol); Dan Stack (Ashland); Bill Bolton (Plymouth); Carl Lehner (Holderness); Mike O'Donnell (Holderness); Barry Draper (New Hampton); Kelly van Lingen (New Hampton).

Also Present:

Dave Jeffers (LRPC)

Call to Order:

Chairman Max Stamp called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes:

After a brief review of the last meeting minutes by Max, Carl Lehner made a motion, seconded by Dan Stack, to approve the minutes of January 26, 2016. The motion carried with no abstentions.

Formal Comments to DES:

Max posed the question of limiting comments to the quarter mile range. Dan would like to expand the range. It was stated that anything in the watershed affects the river. In addition it was felt we should consider comments outside the corridor as feeder streams and roads that cross those streams impact water quality. The members agreed that we should include the watershed in our comments.

The group reviewed photographs taken during a fall visit to various spots along the Northern Pass route. It was clear from the photographs that Northern Pass is not currently caring for the rights of way, resulting in stormwater runoff and erosion. The committee would like stiffer rules on the maintenance of areas that cross over the river.

There was a discussion on whether or not PRLAC should argue about areas in Plymouth where lines are being buried. Bill stated that Plymouth would address the buried lines. There was also mention of how the work to bury lines would negatively impact tourism as a result of road work.

Barry questioned whether "temporary impacts" would in fact be temporary. PRLAC would like an official definition of "temporary impacts".

The committee reviewed maps of the rows to see how they cross over forest land and trees to identify areas where cutting would be necessary. In reviewing the maps, we also identified numerous wetlands which seems to contradict the NP application documents regarding wet lands.

We discussed potential collaborators including the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire's Forests (SPNHF) - Will Abbott, Plymouth State University (PSU) - Mark Green, the Center for the Environment, and municipalities. Barry to reach out to Will again. It was noted that Mark has already stated that he is willing to provide information and the Center for the Environment can provide information on the implications of NP on viewscapes but state and federal organizations cannot participate or respond to NP in conjunction with PRLAC.

The committee agreed that we should push back on "extreme participation events".

Steps for Approaching SEC/Intervenor Status:

We agreed on the following steps/guidelines for requesting intervenor status:

1. Pair up with those partners who have current legal representation and see what they need from us.
2. Provide quantitative information - Potentially contact the US Army Corp of Engineers to see if there is any quantitative information that we can use in our petition.
3. Focus on one or two issues – storm water runoff, erosion, and the cutting of trees

The group discussed viewsapes, ridgeline ordinances, and scenic byways and who we could pair up with to address those areas of concern. We discussed that viewsapes could be commented on by the towns of Bristol, Holderness, and Campton. Members were unsure which towns would be best to comment on ridgeline ordinances. Federal groups might be best for comments on scenic byways.

Carl to contact Susan Arnold, Head of Conservation for AMC and point person on NP issues, to see if we can collaborate.

Town updates:

Barry informed the group that New Hampton is meeting with a high pressure engineer regarding burying the lines for NP. New Hampton will be combining with Woodstock, Bristol and Holderness on this endeavor. Ashland and Plymouth will be petitioning by themselves.

Adjournment:

Carl Lehner made a motion seconded by Dan Stack to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly A. van Lingen
Acting Secretary