

**DRAFT Minutes Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee
October 31, 2023, 2023 Meeting**

Plymouth Public Library, 1 Russell St., Highland St., Plymouth, NH 03264

Members Present:

Ashland: Kathleen DeWolfe

Bridgewater: Judy Faran

Bristol: Max Stamp

Campton: Sherrill Howard, Janet Lucas

Holderness:

Lincoln:

New Hampton: Barry Draper, Russ Brummer, Lewis Mundy Shaw

Plymouth: Bill Bolton

Thornton: Myrtle Lewis

Woodstock:

At Large: Tyson Morrill

LRPC: Dave Jeffers

Guests:

1. Quorum established and meeting called to order by Sherrill at 6:38 PM
2. Approval of minutes from our September 26, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Barry made one correction about whom he talked to regarding Plymouth soil testing during the Main Street project. Janet moved that they be approved as amended. Barry seconded. All approved.
3. A surprise presentation was made to Max Stamp, to celebrate his 23-year participation in the VRAP program. Presents were given and many wonderful photos were shared.
4. Dave Jeffers updated us on the status of the revision of the **PRLAC Management Plan**. The Plan is almost done. He is just waiting on some details about the Meanders and is finishing up the ADA requirements.
5. The **White Mountain Country Club – Ashland** had submitted a Standard Dredge and Fill application to create an irrigation pond (2023-01299). The application has been approved with some conditions. These conditions were based on comments from PRLAC to DES. *Mitigation is required as part of this approval. The required mitigation must be completed as approved in the permit, in accordance with the conditions in the permit, and in conjunction with the project. Failure to comply with the mitigation requirements will be considered a violation of RSA 482-A.*

6. **2023 FRANKLIN WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS: EAST AND WEST BOW STREET LOCATION PLAN, CONTRACT NO. 7075**

This project is to replace old infrastructure. PRLAC's only concern is the same issue as the project in Plymouth of possibly dumping contaminated materials in areas within the river corridor. Sherrill sent a letter expressing PRLAC's concern.

7. PRLAC received information regarding upgrades to the **Ashland Waste Water Treatment Facility**. This information is informational only, no response from PRLAC is required.
8. Per Kathleen, the Town of Ashland is proposing a **"Waste to Energy" plant** to be located within the Pemi corridor. This is a plant that would burn household trash to convert to steam energy. This proposal is in the very early stages.
9. Wetlands update discussion **New Hampshire wetlands rule updates** became effective on October 13, 2023. *Several highlights include:*
1. *Mitigation hierarchy removal. Permit applicants are not required to prove there are no local mitigation options before opting for in-lieu fee option.*
 2. *Greater Wetlands Permit by Notification (PBN) form accessibility and ease of use. The form has been shortened from ten (printed) pages down to seven.*
 3. *The PBN form also includes three new project categories:*
 - *Temporary tier 1 or tier 2 stream crossings (one only) impacting less than 50 linear feet of stream channel.*
 - *Minimum impact, single lot, residential driveways (one only).*
 - *Minimum impact pond maintenance.*

In addition, the latest rules updates include clarification that NHDES will review PBN applications within 10 calendar days (Env-Wt 309.08(a)), with two exceptions:

1. *Applicants are strongly encouraged to include a signed written waiver of intervention from their conservation commission. If they do not, assigned staff will review PBN applications within 25 days.*
 2. *Applicants are strongly encouraged to include a signed written waiver of intervention from their river management advisory committee, if applicable. If they do not, assigned staff will review PBN applications within 25 days.*
10. Sherrill and LRPC proposed an increase to the amount of annual **Funding for PRLAC** that is requested from representative towns. The increase would help defer the rising administrative costs and also possibly contribute to expanding the VRAP program. This increase would go into effect in 2025. Increase from \$300.00 to \$350.00. Janet motioned to adopt this increase. Kathleen seconded.

11. Sherrill is aware of a **property in Campton** that has multiple rvs, boats, hot tub adjacent to river. Town of Campton is pursuing a cease-and-desist order. Sherrill sent letter to DES as a citizen to make a formal complaint.
12. Sherrill announced that she has some medical issues, but will remain chair. She may be requesting assistance at times.
13. The Town of **Bristol is proposing a walking trail** on west side of Pemi down to profile falls. Max monitoring the town's progress to get this approved by state who owns the land.
14. Tyson – Monday November 6th **Association of Conservation Districts meeting**. 9 -3:30 at the Audubon Center concord. Free to attend. FYI
15. **American Fisheries Society** – Atlantic International Chapter, 2024 annual meeting will be in NH. Encourage people of management to come.
16. Barry motioned that the meeting be adjourned, Tyson seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned.

For meeting minutes, agenda, and information visit the PRLAC website at
<http://www.lakesrpc.org/prlac/prlacindex.asp>