

Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee
August 30, 2016 - Pease Public Library
Plymouth, New Hampshire

Minutes

Members Present: Max Stamp (Bristol); Dan Paradis (Bristol); Dan Stack (Ashland); Fred Gunter (Thornton); Barry Draper (New Hampton)

Also Present: Gretchen Draper (New Hampton)

Call to Order: Chairman Max Stamp called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. We had a quorum for this meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Fred Gunter made a motion, seconded by Dan Stack to approve the minutes of July 26, 2016, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Business:

Northern Pass Project:

Max asked members "what are people hearing on the street" about the Northern Pass Transmission project. Dan Stack reported people in Ashland feel "it's a foregone conclusion". The consensus is: "mitigate what's most critical". Dan feels it's only 4.7 miles in Ashland and that's part of the problem. The Ashland Waste Water Treatment Plant still have major concerns because the the proposed lines cross right over the settling ponds and aquifer.

In New Hampton, some people feel this is local town most impacted by this project. Barry Draper keeps in close contact with Barbara Lucas, Town Manager, for information and shared resources. One of New Hampton's native residents on Blake Hill Rd. remarked, "I can't believe we'd tolerate it."

Fred Gunter said Thornton is very quiet. Landowners along Rte. 3 are grumbling. The basic assumption is "it will happen".

Dan Paradis said Northern Pass is not a topic discussed at the Bristol Planning Board Meetings. No one is asking questions. Once the Select Board handed the project over to the lawyers, it's not discussed.

Gretchen said a majority of people now don't even know where NPT is going. PRLAC could increase awareness.

The group decided Max, Barry and Dan Stack (?) will go to Selectmen Meetings and ask for updates on Northern Pass. We also have questions on utility fees collected by towns and lawyer fees.

Max shared the upcoming Technical Sessions Schedule published by the NH SEC. PRLAC representatives will attend. Any other members are welcome to join us.

Gretchen Draper presented an overview of the PRLAC Intervener actions. The seven questions discussed at the July 26 meeting were sent to the Applicants in a Motion to Compel (further information). Max, Barry and Gretchen had a telephone conference with Attorney Dana Bisbee on August 11, 2016. Our impression is NPT is not willing to answer our questions.

We also sent a letter to Thomas Burack, head of NH DES suggesting a DES sponsored hearing for other Local River Advisory Committees and interested parties. We have not received a response as yet. Max said PRLAC has high expectations from DES regarding our NPT concerns and questions.

We discussed each of the 7 questions in the Motion to Compel and Attorney Bisbee's responses. At the end of the discussion, Fred Gunter moved and Dan Stack seconded the motion to "The Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee fully backs the work done by the PRLAC Intervener representatives and supports work to be done in the future."

Fred Gunter asked what regulations apply to Utilities as compared to other projects. For example, schools need to upgrade and correct problems first, before they apply for permits.

Other Business:

Water testing will be September 13, 2016 in the North and September 14 in the south.

Place to Meet: The Plymouth Pease Library is not available for our next meeting on September 27, 2016. Dan Stack will check on an Ashland location.

The **budget process** will be getting underway. We usually send letters out in mid-December. Our request has been \$250 for quite some time. However, New Hampton still pays \$200 because the higher fee would require a warrant.

Barry Draper will talk with Barbara Lucas about New Hampton's contribution to PRLAC. He will also check on the mitigation site proposed by NPT.

Fred Gunter said he was unsure of Thornton's commitment.

Dave Jeffers of Lakes Region Planning keeps record of town billing. Max will check with him on our financial standing.

Adjournment: Fred Gunter made a motion seconded by Dan Stack. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry Draper
New Hampton PRLAC representative