

Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee
June 30, 2015 at Pease Public Library
Plymouth, New Hampshire

Minutes

Members Present:

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

Call to Order:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Two corrections were noted: Jane Kellogg's town should be listed as Campton and under "Stormwater Run-off Strategies for 2015" it should read that there has been a 70% increase in *two inch per hr. rainfall* during heavy rainfall events. Carl Lehner made a motion seconded by Fred Gunter to approve the minutes of May 26, 2015 as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

PRLAC Water Testing Schedule:

Max had sent out a revised schedule a few days before the meeting and asked if this worked for everyone. The only conflict was the August date for Barry Draper. Max will make a final revision to resolve this.

Permit Reviews:

The first permit discussed was an alteration of terrain permit for the Pemi River Heights Townhouses in Holderness. A site visit was conducted by PRLAC members Mike O'Donnell, Fred Gunter, Dan Stack and Bill Bolton on June 11, 2015. Also present at that time were property owner Dave Cossette, surveyor Alan Barnard and engineer Jeff Madon. Mike O'Donnell prepared a report on the visit which was distributed to PRLAC members. Mike summarized his report using a copy of the plans to explain the project, emphasizing those features intended to address runoff of stormwater and contaminants. The main approach is to direct stormwater along a swale (much of which already exists) parallel to the row of structures to a detention pond. It was noted that the area between the detention pond and the river is fairly flat and will remain undisturbed.

At this point, Max went through a series of questions suggested by DES as being helpful to them. Many of the questions had already been answered in the earlier presentation. After further discussion, it was the consensus of the group that the plan seemed to be in compliance with existing requirements. Barry Draper did question the orientation and pitch of the roofs which was not clear from the plans. Some discussion followed on exactly how our response to DES should be framed. It was decided that this should consist of three parts: an introduction, the site meeting report, and the conclusions reached in tonight's meeting. Fred Gunter made a motion seconded by Dan Stack to state that at a duly noticed meeting PRLAC had discussed and reviewed the observations made at a site visit and the plans for the Pemi River Heights Townhouses and had no significant concerns with the project but requests clarification of roof pitch information. The motion passed, 10-0.

The second permit discussed is a wetlands permit requested by the Plymouth Water and Sewer District to gain access to a previously approved project designed to divert stormwater from the town's wellhead area near Exit 25 on I-93. The project consists of collecting the runoff from the highway and directing it through prefabricated channels directly into the river. Max has visited the site and read a brief report he prepared concluding that there were no good options and in any case approval for the project itself had already been granted. He also noted that the access route which is the subject of the current application is already in use. Since our input would make no significant difference at this point and we had no better options to offer, it was decided not to comment formally on this application.

Improving Stormwater Management:

Three handouts had been emailed to members to help guide tonight's continuing discussion on this topic. The first handout discussed is a map of the US showing changes in very heavy precipitation by regions between

1958 and 2012. It was clear from the map that the greatest increases have taken place in the Northeast region, with a 71% increase. It was less clear exactly what the +71% figure is a measure of, which made the group reluctant to use this map unless its exact meaning could be clarified. Max mentioned that this same map had been used in a talk at the LRPC's annual meeting by Dr. Lindsey Rustad, a research ecologist for the USDA who has been involved with the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest. It was suggested that she might be able to offer some clarification on exactly what the figures on this map represent.

The second handout discussed was a summary of stormwater management regulations in four Pemi corridor towns (New Hampton, Holderness, Thornton and Bristol). Mike O'Donnell pointed out that the impervious surface limitations shown for Holderness were in fact a small part of much more extensive rules. The summaries given for the other towns appeared to be complete, but time did not allow for discussion of the merits of the regulations in the four towns. Bill Bolton said he would research Plymouth's regulations and report on them at a later time.

The last handout discussed was a one-page summary of stormwater issues and concerns for the Pemi Watershed which Max had prepared. This might serve as a conversation starter in dealing with town boards. Max also reminded members of the *NH Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Management* available from DES and quoted a relevant summary from it. There was also some discussion of the changing classification of floods which in the past have been known as "50 year events" or the like. Professor Lisa Doner of PSU was mentioned as someone who might be able to enlighten us on this.

Friends of the Pemi:

Max asked Jane Kellogg to report on the Livermore Falls project of the "Friends of the Pemi" group.

Highlights include:

- A schedule of greeters has been set up for weekends this summer.
- State Park employees are conducting regular checks.
- Facilities available now include picnic tables, grilles and portable toilets.
- The next big project is to expand the parking lot. Lack of funds is holding this back.
- The Friends group would like to see faster progress in providing historical markers.

Other:

Max brought up the question of possible speakers to address PRLAC. He mentioned PSU Prof. Mark Green, who is involved with the LoVoTECS monitoring program and Steve Couture of DES. Both were thought to be good choices.

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel A. Paradis
Acting Secretary