

Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee
February 25, 2014 at Pease Public Library
Plymouth, New Hampshire

Minutes

Members Present:

Max Stamp (Bristol); Dan Paradis (Bristol); Mike O'Donnell (Holderness)

Also Present:

Dave Jeffers (LRPC); Ellen Shippee (Director of Physical Plant, PSU); John Scott & Jim Boudreau (Rist-Frost Engineering); Dick Flanders (Vice Chair, Baker River Watershed Association)

Call to Order:

Chairman Max Stamp called the meeting to order at 6:55 PM.

Approval of Minutes:

Since a quorum was not present, the January 28, 2014 minutes could not be approved at this time.

Alteration of Terrain Permit Application – AllWell Center – Phase 2

Max introduced John Scott and Jim Boudreau of RFS Engineering and Ellen Shippee, Director of Physical Plant at PSU. They had been invited to the meeting to discuss the Phase 2 plans for the development of the 42 acre area north of Rte. 175 which includes and surrounds the existing Physical Education Center. John Scott explained that Phase 2, due to budget constraints, is being split into two parts. Part A will consist of the construction of a 100,000 square foot Field House, with parking below, along the westerly property line in the area of the existing tennis courts. The field house will include indoor track and tennis facilities. Part A will also include replacement of existing parking along the eastern border of the parcel with two natural grass fields. Construction of a large infiltration pond in the northern section (alongside the existing baseball field) and will provide replacement of sewer and electric infrastructure. This should be mostly completed in 2014. Part B is expected to start in 2015 and will consist of three new synthetic fields (football, baseball, soccer) with associated bleachers and press facilities and new tennis courts. Part B will also include a second infiltration pond south of the new field house. Phases 3 and 4 will consist of two new buildings on the site of the existing the Physical Education Building which will be dismantled. Phase 3 and 4 timing has not been determined at this time. Mr. Scott explained that no structures can be built on the eastern side of this parcel because it is classified by FEMA as a *floodway*. The rest of the area is classified as a *flood plain*, which allows construction if the structures are designed so if the water rises to the 100-year flood level plus one foot, no damage is done. There will be a net loss of parking, but Ellen Shippee explained that this is largely student parking, which could be accommodated elsewhere on campus.

Jim Boudreau addressed the stormwater issues engendered by the Phase 2 development. He explained that currently runoff is directed south to the drains serving Rte. 175 or to the north into the Pemi. Post-construction, runoff will be directed one of three ways: 1. under the I-93 off-ramp just east of the development area, 2. across Rte. 175 to an area behind the existing gas stations, and 3. to the north to a detention pond which would overflow into the Pemi. Another smaller detention pond would be located near the new 100,000 sq. ft. structure. PRLAC members asked what kind of maintenance would be required and were told by Ellen Shippee that the University would perform whatever maintenance is needed. There was concern expressed about the permeability of the synthetic turf planned for the new fields, but the engineers said the infiltration of water from these is better than if the surface were grass. Mike O'Donnell expressed concern that the design might allow for a reverse flow from the Pemi into the detention pond, but the engineers did not think this would happen. In an email, Barry Draper asked about the downstream effects of the project and we were assured there would be none. We were also told that the plans were developed with phases 3 and 4 in mind, so no changes to the drainage plans would be required when those phases are implemented. Max thanked our guests for their presentation.

LRPC Workshop on Natural Resources in the Lakes Region:

Dan Paradis & Dave Jeffers were asked to report on the Natural Resources workshop sponsored by LRPC on January 31, 2014. Dan said the most interesting session to him was one presented by Pierce Rigrod of the NHDES Drinking Water & Groundwater Bureau. Mr. Rigrod's presentation focused on approaches to limiting

runoff, including Low Impact Development and examples of ordinances which have been implemented by towns to address this concern. Dan thought he would make a good speaker at a PRLAC meeting since he seemed to have a lot of practical ideas regarding runoff, which we identified as having the highest priority in our Management Plan. Dave filled the group in on some of the other sessions, all of which were designed to solicit input for a regional Natural Resource Plan under development at LRPC.

General Discussion:

Some comments from Dick Flanders regarding the ineffectiveness of the environmentally sensitive zone between Tenney Mountain Highway and the Baker River led to a broader discussion regarding the challenges in developing and implementing effective environmental regulations. A second example was cited by Max. A recent Shoreland Permit was approved by DES for a parking area on Avery St. on the southeast corner of Rte. 175 bridge in Holderness. PRLAC felt that the impact of large impervious areas abutting the development site were not considered in calculating the impact of impervious surface stormwater runoff through this site.

Planning Board Role in Stormwater Management:

Dan Paradis had been asked to make a presentation regarding the role and authority of the planning board in environmental protection in general and runoff control in particular. Since time was running out, this presentation was put off until a later date, but Dan did hand out copies of a few of the most significant RSAs as well as a list of about a dozen which he considers particularly relevant. The presentation will be rescheduled for a later date.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel A. Paradis
Secretary