



Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee (PRLAC) Meeting minutes - May 25, 2021 7:00-9:00 pm

Zoom Meeting Attendees: Bill Bolton, Kathleen DeWolf, Judy Faran, Barry Draper, Suellen Skinner, Myrtle Lewis, Sherril Howard, Janet Lucas, Tyson Morril, Max Stamp, Lisa Doner, Russ Brummer

Scribe: Lisa Doner

Guest: Ken Evans, Friends of the Pemi; Kurt Nelson (PSNH), Sherrie Trefry (VHB), Sarah Hoodlet (Eversource)

Minutes for May 25, 2021 meeting

1. Call to order and Introduction of attendees – 7:05 pm start. Nominations for the offices of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Lisa Doner’s re-appointment approved, nominated (volunteered) to be secretary. Summary of earlier nominations: Bill Bolton, Chair; Judy Faran Vice-Chair; David Jeffers, Treasurer - single Vote to accept nominations, cast by Bill Bolton.
2. Corrections to April minutes: Judy vice-chair nominee. Approval of amended minutes from April 23, 2021 meeting – Sherril moved, Myrtle second, all approved (Russ abstaining, absent).
3. about 15 minutes: Ken Evans gave a brief history and summary of recent Friends of the Pemi (FoP) activities on the Campton side of Livermore Falls. Fish & Game managed 42 acres until 2014, then DRED as a State Park. 92 members are in FoP. Plymouth area Rotary Club is organizing entity of FoP. 2016 Holderness side managed for recreation: Keep America Beautiful grant for parking lot (2016); 8 interpretive signs (2020). Campton (West) side will be managed as a historical site. Funds for 15-25 car parking lot; now cutting trees and grading for lot and access path. FoP will staff the West Side when ready to open. Past visioning sessions ID’d safe access to a viewing area, supervision and monitoring as highest priorities. Ownership of historic bridge in question; no ability to do anything with that until ownership is clear. June 18 at noon is next opportunity for PRLAC to meet with FoP and State partners on site. Success in getting State action credited to FoP’s fundraising of \$20,000 through grants and donations. July 4 to Labor Day volunteers desired to greet visitors and sell t-shirts (volunteers get a free t-shirt). Contact Ken Evans via Bill Bolton.
4. Permit Applications: Permit #2021-01456: Application by Eversource to “rebuild the existing 10.6 miles long A111 electric transmission line from the Webster substation in Franklin, to the Pemi Substation in New Hampton. Guests Sherrie Trefry of VHB as preparer of permit application, Kurt Nelson of PSNH as permitting lead, Sarah Hoodlet as Eversource’s stakeholder relations. Sarah presented a powerpoint. Summary: 155 structures being replaced with steel, slightly taller; upgrading line to optical ground wire; new conductor. Area maintained as 225 ft wide, with structures 75 ft from western edge of easement. Vegetation management was done

last last, no more major tree removal projects in near future. Access will be via right of way when possible. SEC has been notified. Seeking State and Local permits now. Anticipate 2 year timeline. Includes height variance permits for utility poles, steep slope variance in Hill (Army Corps permit), zoning board approvals in New Hampton (special use permit, driveway permit), DES dredge & fill, shoreland and wetland alteration of terrain because timber matting over wetlands need to be in place for more than one year (dredge & fill permit). Will revegetate afterwards. Federal mitigation is triggered by size of project's impact: about 2 acres (93,000 sq ft) of wetland impact, 7000 sq ft mitigated (over entire 10 miles of line).

Q&A:

- Barry: erosional drainage off steep slopes? Response: VHB Environmental does compliance monitoring. Contractor has their own environmental monitoring person. Eversource is the erosion manager, with sediment management. Follow best practices for road building on steep slopes, restoration afterwards. Avoid steepest terrain with right of way permissions.
- Myrtle: Description of timber mat? Response: 4"x16" lumber used to make 8'x8' and 10'x12' mats that are about 1' tall. Create a wood pad of 100x100 sq ft. Idea is to displace the weight over a large area and minimize compression.
- Max: What distance between poles? Response: Generally evenly spaced but try to stretch over wetlands with taller structures. Lower structures require closer pole spacing. Not expecting to change the spans in this project.
- Max: At the sole river crossing, what is the pole distance from river edge? Response: 100 ft setback in Hill and New Hampton; 1800 ft span across river is limiting factor.
- Max: possible to avoid mowing to edge to leave buffer vegetation? Response (Sarah): will make a note of that.
- Tyson: Herbicide treatment, permit? Response (Kurt): Mowing requires a permit. No herbicide treatment used after 1990, now just mowing for veg. management. Mature trees not allowed in right of way (ROW). No erosion detected from mowing management.
- Barry: ROW water management has created out of ROW infilling of a beaver wetland near Hill. Response (Kurt): not seeing a wholesale change in erosion up and down the corridor. Had a policy to keep woody shrubs in place when he worked in the veg. mgmt. group. Can reinforce selective maintenance to recreate a woody buffer.
- Bill: At the Bridgewater crossing veg. is allowed to be <10 ft tall. Response (Kurt): alder and sumac are good low height shrubs. Sarah: next cutback planned for 2024, every 4 years. Kurt: no sway at Franklin Dam and herbicide use there.
- Kathleen: Japanese knotweed issue. Response (Kurt): acknowledged this as a problem. Took 5 years for a grassy field in Derry (Maple St) to fill with knotweed.
- Tyson: Can Sarah send us the contact info for the veg management team? Response: no veg mgmnt planned this round.
- Mytle: Can you send us a project summary? Response (Sarah): one page document to share. Main application is over 300 pages long.

End actions: Letter to DES saying we have approved the permit. Return comments by June 10 or minutes with approval. Start date end of Aug. Field trip requests go to Kurt. Eversource logged off.

Post-discussion: Kathleen reported that Evergreen pole replacement in Ashland left all sand, very little topsoil. Timber mats are supposed to be cleaned before re-use. Bill proposed a field trip. JCR did the subcontracted work in Ashland.

End of discussion on this: 8:22 pm.

4b. Field Engineering responded to our concerns regarding the wetlands permit application for bank stabilization (Glove Hollow Tree Farm). Shared earlier via email. Suggest drone footage before and after. Also plan to revisit site after work is done.

Discussed where to keep this kind of long-term information: file database, shared website, Lakes Region Planning Commission could store video/photo records. Secondary erosion images that Barry noted on the beaver wetland could be stored, for example.

4c. Owl's Nest: no response to requests for a site visit. Repeated attempts. Jon L. Warzocha. Want photos for archives. Best time to visit: June 3.

5. Memberships – K. DeWolfe, L Doner approved.

6. Overlay discussion – postponed

7. Meeting format. Not yet face-to-face at state level. June meeting will probably be Zoom. Could use remote device to allow hybrid meetings. Fire Dept garage bay large enough for social distancing.

8. VRAP's Michele Condon has received PRLAC's form – first one in of all the groups. For testing in June 15 – will try again to include the volunteers who offered at the April meeting.

9. Regarding review of future permit applications, discuss on following topics postponed:

- a. Researching RSA's and agency rules to back up potential violations we observed
- b. Including town Selectboards, Planning Boards and Conservation Commissions as a cc in our response to make sure they are aware of our concerns for issues, especially for ones that don't pertain to the laws.
- c. Pursuing legislation for egregious issues, not addressed by law

10. Follow up on sand and salt material stored behind Genesis Healthcare in Plymouth (Langdon St). According to Emergency Mgmt Director Scott Wheedon pile outside shed has been there 2 years. Not traditional salt. Ice-B-Gone .MSDL listed non-hazardous. pH 4.5-7; 50-60% MgCl₂.

11. Campton bank erosion (by covered bridge): no action yet. Sherril will contact town.

12. Watershed steward program – postponed discussion.

13. Other:

- Erin Mills email: problem related to an existing 36" culvert and request for liner installation on Rt 3A, Thornton. Thornton's CC met with her about scouring downstream of culvert. Tier 1 stream. 100 yr flood eval rates 30" as adequate size so can repair with

a 30" insert into existing structure. Applied for as wetlands permit.

- Draft budget from LRPC: \$2700 approved, \$300 used. \$2400 remaining. PRLAC's FY 21 budget: direct expenditures \$3700, \$3400 paid to David Jeffers to serve as treasurer; \$68 for administrative costs. Another \$300 not certain. Discussion: being a non-profit is labor-intensive. 100% of funds go to LRPC – no PRLAC access to the funds. DES might suggest some management ideas. Clarify MOU, invoices, fiscal vs calendar year timing and charges.
- Pemi River Clean-up June 22 in Thornton with Ski Fanatics providing shuttle and kayaks/canoes. Myrtle will send details by email.

Motion to adjourn – Bill Bolton, Second: Barry. Adjourned 9:30 pm