

Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee
October 25, 2016 at Pease Public Library
Plymouth, New Hampshire

Minutes

Members Present:

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

Also Present:

Gretchen Draper (New Hampton)

Call to Order:

Chairman Max Stamp called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Approval of Minutes:

After several minor changes were proposed, Dan Stack made a motion seconded by Carl Lehner to approve the minutes of September 27, 2016 as amended. The motion carried with one abstention.

2017 Funding:

Max reported that he had appeared before the Bristol Budget Committee the previous night to ask for increased funding of \$300. He does not know what their response will be. New Hampton Town Administrator Barbara Lucas has suggested that we contact the Conservation Commission and does not believe a warrant article will be necessary. Dan Stack reported that the petition article he proposed in Ashland last year has been lost, but in any case a new proposal with 25 signatures will be required by November 18th. Dan will acquire these after Max has completed the form. Fred Gunter said the request was in the hands of the selectmen in Thornton. Carl Lehner said he had spoken with Holderness Town Administrator Michael Capone who believes the selectmen will approve the request.

Future plans for PRLAC:

There was general agreement among the group about the problems facing PRLAC. Max wants to retire from the chairmanship, but none of the current members has indicated any interest in taking over that responsibility. The need to self-fund has diverted time and energy which might otherwise be devoted to river issues to fund raising and still leaves us with inconsistent support from the Lakes Region Planning Commission. Several members are well past retirement age and may not serve another term. Max had proposed in the agenda the formation of a sub-committee to study these issues, but the suggested members showed little enthusiasm for the task. However, several suggestions were made in the discussion that followed, including the following:

- Seek input from Dave Jeffers of LRPC.
- Work more closely with Friends of the Pemi.
- Emulate the Upper Merrimac LAC, which sponsors activities such as "Bug Nights".
- Work more closely with PSU's Center for the Environment. Invite CFE Director Joe Boyer to PRLAC meeting to explore collaboration options.
- Work with the Baker River group.
- Work more closely with Trout Unlimited.

At the close of this discussion Max asked members to email him with any suggestions they might have.

Aquifer Protection Issues:

Max received a letter and map from Dave Jeffers addressing aquifer protection issues. Max said he would forward this to members and asked that they inform themselves on the status of aquifer protection measures in their towns.

Northern Pass:

Barry and Gretchen Draper, along with Max, reported on a meeting regarding Northern Pass which they attended the previous day at the Pease Library. The purpose of the meeting was to provide information on the next

step in the SEC (Site Evaluation Committee) process which is intervenor pre-trial written testimony. Most of the interest of the members of the public who attended was with regard to the effect of Northern Pass on property values. PRLAC was alone among the intervenors represented to be concerned with environmental effects. It was pointed out at the meeting that intervenors can provide multiple documents. A lawyer at the meeting suggested that the key points be made early in the documents so they get the greatest attention. She also stressed the importance of personal comments refuting the denials of adverse effects argued by Northern Pass. Gretchen Draper is working on PRLAC's submission and solicited input from the members on what should be included in our submission. Max mentioned that the power is not needed according to projections by ISO New England, which manages the power grid. Dan Paradis said that his top three concerns would be aesthetics, destruction of wetlands and water quality effects. Gretchen Draper suggested that the PRLAC management plan be included and Max suggested the latest water quality report based on the data we generated should be part of the written testimony. Finally, there was some discussion of the need for better oversight of environmental protection measures, including consequences for company executives when violations occur.

Visit to Ambrose Bros. Pit:

Max and Barry reported on a site visit On October 14 to the Ambrose Bros. pit off Rte. 132 in New Hampton. They are proposing to expand the pit, which produces mostly rock, crushed stone, and gravel. Max and Barry felt the pit owners were acting responsibly and raised no objections to the expansion of the pit.

Presentation by Indigenous People of Quebec:

The Drapers reported briefly on a presentation they attended at PSU featuring a native speaker from the area impacted by Hydro Quebec. They were impressed with the speaker, who described how the project has destroyed the way of life of the indigenous people. They said the meeting was well attended, although not for the most part by students.

Adjournment:

Fred Gunter made a motion seconded by Dan Stack to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel A. Paradis
Acting Secretary