

Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee
May 28, 2013 at Pease Public Library
Plymouth, New Hampshire

Minutes

Members Present:

Max Stamp (Bristol); Dan Paradis (Bristol); Carl Lehner (Holderness); Dan Stack (Ashland); Fred Gunter (Thornton); Barry Draper (New Hampton); Jane Kellogg (Campton)

Also Present:

Dave Jeffers (LRPC)

Call to Order:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Dan Stack made a motion seconded by Jane Kellogg to approve the minutes of April 30, 2013. The motion carried unanimously.

Annual Election:

Max reminded the members that the bylaws call for an annual election of officers (Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary) and that we had not followed through on this in some time. Both Max and Dan have served in their respective positions as Chairman and Secretary for over ten years, and would like to see their responsibilities passed along to other members of the group. It quickly became apparent that none of the members present felt they could commit to taking over the leadership roles for PRLAC, so it was pointless to try to hold an election at this meeting. This led to an extensive discussion of PRLAC's mission and the need to attract new members as well as how to address the leadership vacuum. Dave Jeffers suggested that it might be possible to have someone work with the current officers and to gradually shift the responsibility to the new person(s). Jane Kellogg thought one of the underlying problems is that since our role is advisory only, this might lead to some hesitancy to make the time commitment to PRLAC. She feels that it's easier to get people to commit to "hands-on" activities that yield immediate results as compared to PRLAC's long-term approach to protecting the Pemi. Max suggested that we might morph into being primarily a VRAP group concerned mainly with water quality, but Dave pointed out that this is not what's envisioned by the statutes which created the Local Advisory Committees. There was some discussion of holding fewer meetings during the year, which might help with our financial problems, but which does not address the need for new leadership. The discussion left the basic questions unresolved, but there did seem to be agreement that we had to do more than "kick the can down the road" and come up with a plan to address the future of PRLAC.

The next meeting of the "Friends of the Pemi" group was announced for 9:00 AM on June 5th at RMI headquarters in Holderness. Several members indicated they would attend.

Funding:

Dave reported that LRPC has received \$250 contributions from Ashland, Campton and Holderness. Bristol has paid \$200 and PSNH made a contribution of \$250. Contributions from Bridgewater and Plymouth are expected in July but Dave was uncertain about New Hampton's status. Dave explained that much of the time he devoted to PRLAC last year was funded through the Management Plan grant, but this source has run out. With a charge of \$54 per hour from LRPC, the expected funding from the towns does not cover the cost of Dave's attendance at all of our meetings along with the other expenses that need to be covered. Fortunately, the state pays for water testing costs, so we don't have to worry about that expense. Carl Lehner suggested we might solicit more companies which use the river as well as public-spirited individuals such as Alex Ray. It was also suggested that we might be able to get along without Dave at some meetings, and that reducing the number of meetings would also help balance the budget.

Management Plan Distribution:

The tentative distribution plan proposed in the agenda was agreed to with the addition of Tara Bamford of

the North Country Council as one of the presenters in Campton. This calls for the following assignments: Thornton, Fred Gunter; Campton, Jane Kellogg and Tara Bamford; Holderness, Carl Lehner, Mike O'Donnell and Marty Riehs; Plymouth, John Kelly; Ashland, Dan Stack; Bridgewater, Max Stamp; New Hampton, Barry Draper; Bristol, Dan Paradis. There was some discussion of the draft two-page outline of the plan that was proposed as a guide for presentations and was e-mailed to members, but ultimately no changes were made to it. Presenters will provide a single hard copy and a CD version of the Management Plan for the town. Each member of the Planning Board will be given a copy of the outline of the plan as well as the water quality testing schedule for 2013 and a summary of the 2012 results. Fred Gunter and Dan Paradis expressed some concern about the time it would take to cover the material in the plan summary, but it was agreed that the presenters could choose how to edit the material to keep the length of the verbal presentation to 15 to 20 minutes. Specific requests to the boards should include adoption of the Pemi Management Plan as an adjunct to the town's master plan and asking them to consider proposing legislation aimed at controlling runoff from development. Max suggested that presenters might want to choose one area for special emphasis and as an example passed out a copy of a Forest Service report projecting which watersheds are most likely to experience the most change in water quality due to development on private forest lands. Finally, copies of the Management Plan and CD were passed out as needed.

Other:

Upcoming PRLAC meetings: The June meeting of PRLAC will take place at the Pease Library once again. There is no meeting in July.

LRPC Annual Meeting: Dave reminded members of the LRPC annual meeting featuring DES Commissioner Thomas Burack as guest speaker. The meeting will take place at the Inn at Church Landing at 5:30 PM on June 24, 2013.

Adjournment:

Fred Gunter made a motion seconded by Jane Kellogg to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel A. Paradis
Secretary