

Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee

October 29, 2020 (3:00 PM)

Special Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID:

<https://zoom.us/j/81281677907>

Members Present: Bill Bolton (Plymouth), Russ Brummer (New Hampton), Barry Draper (New Hampton), Max Stamp (Bristol), Judy Faran (Bridgewater), Myrtle Lewis (Thorton), Lisa Doner (Plymouth), Katri Gurney (Thorton), Carl Lehner (Holderness)

Guests: David Jeffers (LRPC), Tracie Sales (NHDES - Rivers and Lakes Program Manager), Dave Katz (New Hampton Conservation Committee), Robert Snelling (Holderness Planning Board)

Meeting called to order by B. Bolton at 3:03 PM.

1. Introductions
2. Lisa Doner described the Oxbow Recreation Area Project for members to consider supporting.
 - a. The project seeks funding from the NH Division of Parks and Recreation, Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which funds the creation of natural, open spaces that build public engagement and compacity for recreation in NH.
 - b. The land in question is the oxbow area between Rt 175 on the West, the Pemi River to the East, Holderness Road to the North, and private properties in Ashland to the South.
 - c. The land is currently owned mostly by Holderness School, Plymouth Athletic Club, and Lakes Region Golf Club, Inc.
 - d. LWCF funds will be used to purchase the land from current owners and establish a more regulated use of the land.
 - e. An advisory council would be formed to establish immediate needs and long term planning for best practices. The proposed Advisory council currently include members from:
 - i. NE Mountain Biking
 - ii. Squam Lakes Trail busters (snowmobile club)
 - iii. Holderness Conservation Committee
 - iv. Plymouth Conservation Committee
 - v. NH Fish and Game
 - f. The council needs to plan in order to meet the needs of the project in perpetuity.
 - i. There is no funding after the initial money.
 - ii. Squam Lake Trail Busters and NE Mountain Biking clubs agree to fund and maintain their trails.
 - g. The project is looking for support of the idea from PRLAC and an agreement that one of its members serve on the advisory board.

- h. D. Jeffers reported that Wavell Fogelman (Ph.D. Professor Emeritus of PSU) wrote him a letter pointing out that some of the details on the project map sent to PRLAC members needs to be updated. For instance, there is more active water going through the area than shown on the map. The letter also pointed out the impressive biodiversity of the site and that PSU professors in botany and ornithology have used the area for classes and research.
 - i. B. Bolton reported that Rep. Susan Smith sent an email supporting the project. He suggests that we ask Rep. Smith to write a more formal letter to be included in the funding proposal. L. Doner will contact Rep. Smith. L. Doner also reported that Ken Evans (Friends of the Pemi) sent a letter of support.
 - j. B. Bolton read the letter of support from PRLAC to be sent to NH Division of Parks and Recreation, Land and Water Conservation Fund. The letter specified that a PRLAC member would join the projects advisory council.
 - i. Suggestions were given to improvement the letter.
 - ii. Motion made by R. Brummer, seconded my M. Lewis: All members agreed with the letter as amended
 - iii. Bill will amend and send the letter.
3. M. Lewis requested a tour of the oxbow area. L. Doner volunteered to give a tour to members.
 4. M. Stamp brought up the condition of the Mooney-Clarke Boat Ramp. A fisherman uses the ramp wrote a letter asking for ways to improve the condition of the site. The road leading to the ramp is in disrepair resulting in cars cutting over the grass. Ruts have formed, increasing water runoff and erosion.
 - a. M. Stamp asked for information on who owns the land so he can respond to the letter
 - i. D. Jeffers reported the ramp property is currently owned by HSC Hydro NH Ayers Island LLC (Contacts are Brent Sole, Curt Mooney)
 - ii. T. Sales suggested we start by contacting Jim Gallagher (Dam Bureau Administrator).
 - b. We should get a letter of support from Susan. Lisa will follow up with that.
 - c. Bill reported on an email from NHDES from Gene Porter (Chair of LMRMC) – Urging us to review a change in wetlands mitigation rules. Bill will forward.
 - i. T. Sales reported G. Porter is looking for opinions from LRC's.
 1. The rule stipulates if actions taken have an impact on a wetland, a fee must be paid to a mitigation fund. This fund is used to repair damaged wetlands.
 2. G. Porter would like the use of the funds expanded to allow for trails along rivers or boat access ramps.
 3. T. Sales thinks the challenge will be the NH and US anti-degradation laws, which state wetlands can't be filled or dredged.

Motion to adjourn 3:52 – L. Doner, seconded by B. Draper – all members agree.