



Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee (PRLAC)

July 27, 2021 07:00 PM Meeting Minutes - Draft

In-person Meeting Location: Plymouth Town Hall

Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86814537432?pwd=S3BNcVU4QUZIS0VXQnl4WkFSVG1WZz09>

Minutes – 7/27/2021

1. Call to order and Introduction of attendees: In person - Bill Bolton (chair), Lisa Doner (scribe), Neil McIver, Russ Brummer, Carl Lehner, Suellen Skinner, Sherrill Howard, Judy Faran, Max Stamp, Barry Draper, Kathleen DeWolfe. Remote - David Jeffers
2. Approval of minutes from our June 29, 2021 meeting (no revisions). Judy moved, Max 2nd; all in favor.
3. Permit Applications:
 - a. Ambrose pit in Bridgewater, expansion of sand and gravel operation. No alteration of terrain permit number assigned yet. Proposed clearance and excavation of 23.2 acres (1.2 million ft²), contiguous with previously excavated land in Plymouth. We'll take this up when a permit application exists.
 - b. Expansion of Permit # 20210601-080 Alteration of Terrain for Eversource A111 Electric Transmission Line Rebuild – already discussed in a prior meeting.
 - c. Remington Rd Thornton Dredge & Fill permit request – discussion of missing details (McIver), vulnerability of riverbank to erosion, potential for river to “go around” the hardened area and establish a new channel to the west at an upstream, softer location - illustrated with FEMA’s NFIP maps and regional LiDAR of the river valley (Doner). Bill will compile this discussion into a comment for DES.
4. Follow-up on Pemi River Campground expansion in Thornton. Abutter not present at our meeting this month but informed Bill Bolton about the outcome of the Thornton planning board meeting on the topic. No public comments were allowed; the application was deemed incomplete.
5. Additional discussion on Mike Ahearn riverbank stabilization and how DES views these kinds of alteration of terrain projects.
6. Discussion of West Branch Brook Campground expansion, Campton Sand & Gravel expansion towards watershed divide abutting new conservation lands, general concern about scope of riverside destructive land use changes underway.
7. Owl’s Nest request for temporary withdrawal of water from the Pemigewasset River in Campton to fill their new recreation pond has essentially become a continuous withdrawal request by addition of fire protection and irrigation use permits. There are currently 4 drilled wells supplying existing units. 500 new units are planned. Concern about significant aquifer depletion between the pond and the new units.
8. Dave Jeffers discussion forum:
 - a. Discussion of quorum for future PRLAC meetings – our bylaws says 4 of the 11 communities must be present; our zoom meetings sometimes only had 4. State guidelines are for 50% of members for in person meetings. We have ability to establish our own criteria. Consensus for 50% in person and 4 town minimum when operating in hybrid mode (some attendees remote, some in person). David will check on the legality of this.

- b. Time to update the River Management Plan if we can get funding. Tried twice already but not awarded funds. Need a better letter of intent (due 9/17/21), and focus on a water quality problem. Pemi has generally good water quality, but the tributaries feeding it are often impaired. Possible directions: 1) propose to deal with tributary issues with specified actions; 2) threats from development and weak or lacking protective town ordinances – could help towns propose ordinances/overlays to take to town meeting. Need to request support in the \$15,000-20,000 range (not the \$30,000 request from previous years). Possible to incorporate stormwater management and culvert assessment data? American Rescue Plan has infrastructure money.
 - c. Want to offset LRPC costs with grants.
9. Regarding permit applications and DES comments, we should use the RSA's and agency rules to back up claims of violations. Also send comments to town boards when we respond to DES to make sure they are aware of our concerns, especially for issues that don't have regulatory RSAs.
10. **Adjourn 9:00 (moved by Sherrill, Carl 2nd. All in favor.**