

Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee
August 26, 2014 at Pease Public Library
Plymouth, New Hampshire

Minutes

Members Present:

Max Stamp (Bristol); Fred Gunter (Thornton); Dan Stack (Ashland); Carl Lehner (Holderness); Mike O'Donnell (Holderness)

Also Present:

Dave Jeffers (LRPC)

Call to Order:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Fred Gunter made a motion seconded by Max Stamp to approve the minutes of July 29, 2014 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Max commented on how helpful the visit from Jacquie Colburn, NH Lakes and Rivers Coordinator was and suggested that we invite her to attend annually.

Stormwater Management Discussion:

Max began the discussion by summarizing the Stormwater subcommittee meeting held August 15 (Max, Carl, Dan P., Fred). Several sample regulations/ordinances were discussed in terms of ease of implementation by the developer/homeowner/community. They also explored the "*NH Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Management*" which seems simpler, does not require an engineer, but is intended for the established homeowner not new development. He also summarized some of the challenges encountered by the Newfound Lakes Association in their efforts to do outreach to a half dozen lakefront communities on this issue.

In an effort to define the problem, it was noted that the Homeowner's Guide is nice but could be expensive to distribute to all. Regarding how best to implement stormwater management there was discussion of the pros and cons of using the Zoning Ordinance and the Subdivision and Site Plan Regulations.

During the conversation it was noted that the goal seems to be to keep things from getting worse. To get somebody to do things is to require it. If you don't have enforcement, you won't get compliance. Without enforcement, the only thing left is education.

M. O'Donnell used Energy Efficiency as an example of a topic which also is one that takes a while to see a return on the investment but there will be a return.

There was agreement that the general principle of "You shall take care of Stormwater runoff" is one to follow. Fred noted that if people know that something is a requirement, they will try to meet it. If left to the homeowner with no rule, it won't get done.

Max shared some of the Bristol regulations which essentially state that Stormwater needs to be controlled during and after construction. He also shared some comments from Dan Paradis expressing his thoughts that a "one-size-fits-all" approach will not work. In Bristol they ask on the Building Permit, "What will be done to control stormwater runoff" and the developer must demonstrate how this will be accomplished.

This led to a discussion of Performance Standards for Stormwater Runoff. These would state the desired outcome – no net increase or concentration in stormwater runoff from a property – but not dictate the method of how this would be accomplished. There was general agreement to begin discussions on Performance Standards for Stormwater Runoff with a couple of communities; Carl will discuss with the Holderness PB and Fred with the Thornton PB.

Other:

There was some discussion of the Mad River dam permit application. The dam is owned by the Forest Service. Due to poor abutments, it is in violation but the Forest Service has some engineering which will put it back in compliance. Fred had difficulty finding an ID number on this application.

Max also noted that a “Conservation Matters” article will be due soon and he is seeking ideas and input.

Adjournment:

Dan Stack made a motion seconded by Fred Gunter to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Jeffers
LRPC